

Dumas says Oman optimistic

SALALAH, Oman (R) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Tuesday after talks with Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id that the Omani leader was optimistic about peace in the Gulf and was already planning for the future. "We both expressed the hope that this crisis would end peacefully," Dumas told reporters travelling with him on a three-day tour of the region. Dumas said Monday that Gulf leaders he met in Bahrain and Qatar doubted the effectiveness of a world trade embargo in forcing Iraq out of Kuwait. By contrast, the Omanis appeared so optimistic that they steered the talks to focus on the future of the region after the Gulf crisis. "Oman is actively seeking ways to give this region stability and peace," Dumas said, ending the tour which began with talks in Tunis with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Oman, on the Strait of Hormuz, has condemned Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and supported international sanctions against Baghdad. Both Britain and the United States have stationed warplanes in the sultanate as part of the U.S.-led forces assembled in the Gulf to challenge Iraq.

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PFLP claims rocket attack

BEIRUT (AP) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) claimed its guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets into the Golan Heights from South Lebanon Tuesday and returned safely to base. A PFLP communiqué released in Beirut said the attack was designed to coincide with the lapse of one week on the killing of Palestinians by Israeli gunfire in Jerusalem. "The rockets accurately hit targets at the Israeli border towns of Maalot and Shikha," the communiqué said. The PFLP communiqué also said a landmine planted by another PFLP guerrilla squad in Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon exploded under a military vehicle of the Israeli-occupied South Lebanon Army militia Monday night. "All eight occupants of the burning vehicle were either killed or wounded," the communiqué said. There was no immediate comment from Israel or the SLA on either report. Israel confirmed that a number of Katyusha rockets fired from South Lebanon exploded in northern Israel Tuesday but caused no damage or injury.

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Crown Prince visits army unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday visited one of the formations of the Fifth Royal Mechanized Division, where he was briefed on the progress of training programmes by the division's commander and officers. The Crown Prince also watched a military exercise performed by the formation's personnel.

Gulf protesters greet Bush at rally

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — U.S. President George Bush was confronted with a protest against U.S. involvement in the Gulf Tuesday, as he spoke at a rally for state Republican candidates. A young man stood up in the middle of the Des Moines Civic Centre and interrupted Bush by shouting, "Mr. President, bring our troops home from Saudi Arabia." A second young man then demanded, "stop the buildup, Mr. President." A third shouted, "No war for oil." Police removed the three demonstrators.

Ramadan in Rabat

RABAT (R) — Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan is visiting Rabat at the end of a tour of North Africa delivering messages from President Saddam Hussein about the Gulf crisis. In a statement reported by the Moroccan news agency MAP Tuesday, Ramadan said his mission was "to inform leaders of the latest developments in the Gulf with a view to mutual coordination and cooperation to deal with the circumstances."

Explosive device found in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Police defused a home-made bomb found Tuesday at a subway entrance on a busy downtown square, a police officer said. Security officials later said an examination of the device showed it contained a detonator but no explosive. Police said the "bomb" was spotted at 12:50 p.m. (10:50 GMT) at an entrance to the Metro's Sadat station across from the Nile Hilton hotel. The hotel is among several important buildings overlooking Tahrir Square. They include the Foreign Ministry, the national antiquities museum and the headquarters of the Arab League.

Asian states urge Iraqi pullout

DHAKA (AP) — Six Islamic Asian nations have appealed to Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait and restore the government it ousted. Besides President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh, the appeal was signed by the leaders of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives and Pakistan. Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan told reporters Tuesday.

Ozal in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Turkish President Turgut Ozal arrived Tuesday on the fourth leg of a Middle East tour to discuss the Gulf crisis with regional leaders. President Hosni Mubarak greeted him at Cairo international airport and accompanied him to the Kubba presidential guest palace for official welcoming ceremonies. Ozal already has visited Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar during his tour and will travel to Syria before returning home.

Spaniards award Saddam peace medal

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has won a peace medal from Spanish members of parliament. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Tuesday the medal was presented by a delegation which left Baghdad Monday with 15 Spaniards who had been held by Iraq as detainees against possible U.S. and allied attack. It said the medal, inscribed "Keys of Freedom Penetrate All Things," was awarded to Saddam because of his "policy of dialogue and peace" and his contributions to Iraqi cultural development.

Mideast will never be same with or without war — King

'U.S. and West failed to understand Iraqi signals'

The following report, written by Judith Miller, is reprinted from Tuesday's issue of the New York Times

AMMAN — He is chain-smoking again, and says it is impossible to sleep more than four hours a night. To relieve the pressure, he has taken to riding around his palace on a BMW motorcycle. While his eyes can sparkle at times, he looks at other times as if he is carrying the cares of 200 million Arabs on his shoulders. Since the Persian Gulf crisis began, King Hussein of Jordan has travelled more than 50,000 miles and met with 15 leaders to avert a war that he warns would be catastrophic not only for his country, but also for this region and the West.

"With or without war, nothing will return to what it was," the King says. "This will be an area of turmoil unless people face up to the need to create new dreams and new realities."

Now, after 10 weeks, he says that war may be imminent, despite statements in Washington indicating that there are still months of waiting to see if the economic sanctions against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq will work.

If war comes, the Jordanian King says, it will be partly because of a failure by President Bush and other Western leaders

to respond in time to signals from the Iraqi leader, soon after the Kuwait invasion, that he was ready to withdraw from most of the occupied territory.

The 54-year-old King, now in his 38th year on the throne, says that he believes a peaceful end to the Kuwait dispute is possible, but only if there is a greater willingness to compromise by the United States and its Arab allies, and what he called "an end to the current embargo on dialogue."

A dialogue across the airwaves is not constructive, he said. If diplomacy fails, he said, his conversations with Saddam Hussein have convinced him that the Iraqis would fight.

"If it's a question of humiliation and surrender, it won't work," the King said. "Capitulation is unacceptable."

Back at Nadwa, his yellow granite palace in downtown Amman, the King continues his diplomatic campaign with King Hassan II of Morocco and President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria, sending letters and messages back and forth between Baghdad and other Arab capitals, planning his next moves.

In a series of interviews over the weekend, he spoke at length about his efforts to prevent and later to contain the Persian Gulf crisis, the first time he has given a full public accounting of his actions.

He disclosed that on Aug. 2, the

day of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he had been given 48 hours by President Bush to secure a commitment from President Hussein to withdraw his troops. He said that President Hussein had promised to begin pulling out troops if the Arab League did not condemn him, something it did do, which he said, led to the collapse of his early efforts.

The King's mood, often frustrated and angry, was lightened by occasional bursts of humor as he mused about happier times, or watched the latest news on CNN. At one point, his spirits darkening, he spoke of thoughts of resigning from a job that many regard among the most dangerous in the Middle East, thoughts he said he has since put firmly out of his mind.

Jordan was once regarded by the United States and other Western countries as the most dependable of the Arab nations. Now, King Hussein showed his distress at the way he and his country have been criticised since the start of the crisis by the United States and its allies. They have deplored what they regard as his hedging on condemning the Iraqi invasion, a stand that the harsh critics say comes close to condoning Baghdad's action.

What made his isolation particularly stressful, he says, is that he and President Bush are friends of long standing. And he went out of his way not to assail the United States. He was more critical of his former Arab allies.

Of all Arab leaders, King Hussein said President Hosni Mubarak of

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King pays tribute to Gorbachev, hopes for action to achieve peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev congratulating him on the Nobel Prize awarded to him for his "leading role in opening new possibilities for the world through the international peace process."

"I am pleased to offer you congratulations in my name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people for the Nobel Prize awarded to you in recognition of your historic role during the cold war era that has been transformed into a new and promising

period of international cooperation and understanding," the King said. "Your great endeavor to liberate the European nations from the shackles of devastating wars had won you this esteemed prize at a time when the people of the Middle East continue to suffer from regional conflicts that lasted through the cold war era and continue with a greater seriousness and magnitude," the King said. He said the Middle East and its peoples deserve to live in peace enjoyed by the European nations.

"I have great hope that your efforts will increase and expand to help lay the foundation for world peace and security that would include our area, which these days is living in pain and the fear of war and devastation," the King added. "The Nobel Peace Prize imposes on you further burdens and responsibilities to work for peace and I believe that you will shoulder this responsibility," the King said. He wished Gorbachev and the Soviet Union further progress and prosperity.

Government to step up armed training for citizens

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday announced that the government would be training more civilians to defend Jordan against aggression.

After the latest in a series of meetings with delegations of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Badran announced that the volunteer "Peoples Army," launched in 1985, would step up its training of volunteers in response to popular demand in the Kingdom.

"We will begin training in secondary schools, community colleges, universities and main industries," Badran told reporters after the meeting.

The request to increase arming the population, which has been made by leaders of all political trends across the board, had threatened to create a rift between the government and Parliament. "There could have been some votes of no confidence when Parliament convened in November," said one deputy. "But this decision has changed the situation."

Officials close to the Prime Ministry have said that Badran was actually a supporter of the call for boosting

the People's Army.

The prime minister said Tuesday that new training centers, financed by fundraising committees, would be set up in various parts of the country. "The deputies will be in charge of the fundraising committees," he said.

Although the training will be on an entirely voluntary basis for men between the ages of 16 and 55 and women between 16 and 45, "the feeling of responsibility of each and every citizen will be intensified by the training," Badran said.

Approximately 150,000 Jordanians have been trained on the use of light weapons and first aid since the People's Army was launched in 1985.

Popular demand to train and arm Jordan's population comes in the wake of increasing economic difficulties that the country is facing.

As the economic squeeze on Jordan becomes more acute after all Arab aid to the Kingdom came to a halt and experts to Iraq and other countries became nil or dwindled drastically, the popular call for arming the population increased. The killing of Palestinians at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem nine days ago brought the demand to new heights.

In a separate interview Tuesday the prime minister briefed Jordanian reporters on the degree to which Jordan had suffered economically since the Gulf crisis began.

Jordan had been the "worst" hit by the Gulf crisis, said the prime minister. Its economy was dependent on its

exports to Iraq, which used to buy about 40 per cent of the Kingdom's products, he noted.

The country is short on foreign currency partly because Jordanians working in Kuwait used to send home not less than JD 650 million every year and this is no longer the case, he said.

Although unemployment has not become chronic, 11,000 truck drivers lost their jobs because transport between the port of Aqaba and Iraq had come to a halt and this has left 55,000 family dependents without providers, Badran said.

"Financial support for this country has come to a complete halt," said Badran. On top of its problems, Jordan also spent \$25 million to help evacuate 80,000 non-Jordanians from Iraq and Kuwait through its territory, he said.

"We have received some in-kind assistance, but we have never-the-less carried the brunt of the burden on our shoulders," Badran said.

Experts have estimated that Jordan's losses in 1990 would reach \$1.1 billion and could reach \$2.5 billion in 1991 as a result of the Gulf crisis and sanctions on Iraq, the prime minister said.

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OIC panel calls for sanctions on Israel

RABAT (Agencies) — The Higher Islamic Committee on Jerusalem has called for sanctions against Israel for rejecting a U.N. Security Council inquiry into last week's massacre in Jerusalem.

The Al Quds committee, an affiliate of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), ended a meeting late Monday by denouncing Israel's "shameless defiance" of Security Council Resolution 672.

The resolution authorises an inquiry mission to investigate the killings by Israeli police Oct. 8.

The committee praised Pope John Paul II for exploring the killings and said the Vatican should participate in a Islamic-Christian meeting aimed at safeguarding Jerusalem's religious and historic character.

The committee includes the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.), Bangladesh, Guinea, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Syria.

The committee asked the Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel. It urged speedy organisation of an international conference on the Middle East that would include the PLO and the Security Council's five permanent members.

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Oaseem, who represented Jordan at the meeting, said the Jerusalem massacre was a "clear evidence of Israel's insistence on Judaizing the holy places in the occupied Jerusalem."

Oaseem called for setting up a special Islamic fund to finance the purchase of the property threatened with confiscation by the Israeli authorities and to register it as Islamic waqf.

Oaseem pointed out that the Israeli authorities had confiscated 50 Arab properties. The fund can also provide funds to restore Islamic and Christian holy places and to provide accommodation to those whose houses have been demolished.

Iraq was represented at the Al Quds meeting by its foreign minister, Tariq Aziz.

Iraq: No U.S. attack until Christmas

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's army newspaper Tuesday discounted the possibility of war before Christmas, saying U.S. President George Bush was not likely to allow American soldiers to come home in coffins during the holiday season.

"The deaths of thousands of American troops will certainly enrage the people in the United States and the West, who would only curse Bush for his deeds which resulted in such a catastrophe," Al Qadisiya said in an editorial.

The editorial contrasted with an earlier statement by Iraq's information minister that an attack by U.S.-led military forces might be imminent. It appeared to be intended to quell such speculation.

Another newspaper, Al Thawra, stepped up denials that Iraq

might be softening its stance on Kuwait.

"We will not give it up even if we fight for it 1,000 years," said Al Thawra, the organ of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party. "This is our final decision, a decision that all Iraqis defend and guard by six million fighters."

Monday night, the Iraqi News Agency said Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov, who recently visited Baghdad for talks on the Gulf crisis, denied that he had said President Saddam Hussein might be willing to withdraw Iraqi forces from most of the country in exchange for Kuwait territory that would give Iraq access to the sea.

INA said its correspondent in Moscow had learned from a source close to a Soviet presidential council member that Primakov was "very displeased" with a

report carried by the Novosti news agency.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had also suggested that Iraq was showing a "certain flexibility" regarding his claims to Kuwait.

However, Iraqi Information Minister Latif Jassem said Monday: "Kuwait is the 19th province of Iraq and this fact will not be changed whatsoever even if we fight a long war for that."

Jassem also said Iraq expects "the war at any moment," although Iraq would not fire the first shot.

But Al Qadisiya Tuesday ruled out the possibility of military confrontation in the next few months. It said the great number of American soldiers who would die would alter public opinion against Bush "when cases of dead bodies start arriving before

Christmas."

It also said American troops will not be prepared to fight and die while their minds are preoccupied with Christmas celebrations and the recollection of parties at home.

"How can any American soldier fight while his mind is full of the memories of his wife, children and friends who are waiting for him to celebrate the Christmas," the editorial said.

Al Qadisiya said Iraq would use its "weapons of mass destruction" in any war over the Gulf crisis.

Iraq invited volunteers Tuesday to join its missile strike force.

The Defence Ministry offered Iraqis aged between 14 and 25 a chance to achieve what it called victory over imperialism and Zionism.

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Baker says No 'partial' solution in Gulf

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State James Baker Tuesday urged Israel to cooperate with a U.N. probe of the Oct. 8 killing of Palestinians and expressed concern that failure to do so would draw unjustified comparisons with Iraq.

At a press conference, Baker also appeared to warn Israel about proposed new settlements in Arab Jerusalem, saying he accepted the word of Israeli Foreign

U.S. calls on Israel to cooperate with U.N. probe

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At a press conference, Baker also appeared to warn Israel about proposed new settlements in Arab Jerusalem, saying he accepted the word of Israeli Foreign

Minister David Levy that U.S. housing loan guarantees would not be used there.

As new tensions in the U.S.-Israeli relationship continued to build, Baker said he hoped Israel could resume the low-profile role it took on when the Gulf crisis began and Washington marshalled an international coalition against Iraq.

Baker said he wrote Levy before the Israeli cabinet voted

Sunday to oppose a team from the U.N. secretary general probing the police killing of the Palestinians in Jerusalem.

The Security Council condemned Israel for excessive use of force in the deaths and endorsed the fact-finding team. Israel is furious at the resolution and the major U.S. role in getting it passed.

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France, Lebanon seek to ease row over Aoun

BEIRUT (Agencies) — France and Lebanon sought Tuesday to ease a heating quarrel over defunct General Michel Aoun's asylum as government troops tightened their grip on his captured enclave.

Aoun remained in refuge for the fourth day in the French embassy in Beirut's eastern suburb of Hazmijeh.

The Lebanese government, which refuses to allow Aoun to leave the country, deployed a small army force nearby but said the measure was designed to prevent anti-Aoun demonstrators from storming the embassy.

"France and Lebanon do not intend to permit a crisis to develop between them," French Ambassador Rene Ala told reporters after meeting President Elias Hrawi in west Beirut.

Franco-Lebanese relations are

really deep and cordial," Ala said after his third meeting with Hrawi in 24 hours over Aoun's case.

Syrian troops meanwhile tightened their grip on parts of east Beirut, where residents fear a new wave of militia violence in the power vacuum after Aoun's

downfall.

"People are scared and streets are almost deserted. No one dares to go out at night," said Kamal Nassr, 30. "We feel there is no one to protect us."

When the whole of Lebanon recovers its unity and enjoys peace," the King said. "We hope that the unification of Beirut will mark the first step towards the fulfilment of the aspirations of the Lebanese people and an end to their sufferings," the King added. He wished the president success in his efforts to achieve the national aspirations of the Lebanese people.

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King congratulates Hrawi

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of congratulations to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi expressing support for his endeavors to unify Beirut and safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"We have followed with keen interest your relentless efforts to unify greater Beirut and we look forward to the day

when the whole of Lebanon recovers its unity and enjoys peace," the King said.

"We hope that the unification of Beirut will mark the first step towards the fulfilment of the aspirations of the Lebanese people and an end to their sufferings," the King added. He wished the president success in his efforts to achieve the national aspirations of the Lebanese people.

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Cheney in Moscow, but may not get Iraqi secrets

MOSCOW (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Cheney began discussions on the Gulf crisis and other issues with Soviet officials Tuesday as a top aide to Mikhail Gorbachev left for Rome, Paris and Washington on a related mission.

Cheney, U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock and other U.S. officials met with Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov and were scheduled to talk with Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

"I look forward over the next few days to have the opportunity to visit with members of the Soviet armed forces and to exchange views with Marshal Yazov and other Soviet officials about important world issues that face both our two nations at the present time," Cheney said on arrival.

Gorbachev's top adviser on the Middle East, Yevgeny Primakov, departed Moscow for Rome, and was to go from there to Paris and Washington to discuss ways of ending the Gulf crisis without further conflict, presidential spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko announced.

"As you know, the situation is very tense and there is a danger

of sliding towards military conflict and therefore, on the personal instruction of our president, his special representative Yevgeny Primakov today continued his mission," Ignatenko said.

In Rome, Primakov was to meet with President Giulio Andreotti and afterwards fly to Paris, said Ignatenko.

"Then the special representative of President Gorbachev is to leave for Washington where a meeting is planned with President (George) Bush," the spokesman said.

Ignatenko also denied reports that the Soviets would share military intelligence on Iraq with the United States.

"We are not at war with Iraq and, of course, there can be no revealing of secrets," Ignatenko said.

A Cheney aide, speaking on condition he not be further identified, told the Associated Press in Washington that the defence secretary would press the Soviets for intelligence on Iraq.

Last month, KGB chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov told the AP board of directors his agency was prepared to share such information with the U.S. government.

Cheney's visit to Moscow was part of a series of high-level U.S. diplomatic efforts to ease the Gulf crisis.

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Iraq urges peaceful solution in Gulf

Mideast takes centre-stage at parliamentary meeting

PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay (R) — Legislators from over 100 countries meeting at a parliamentary conference voted Monday to discuss proposals condemning Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and the killing of 31 Palestinians by Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem last week.

Delegates to the 84th inter-parliamentary conference held at this Uruguayan seaside resort approved by a margin of nearly nine to one a French proposal calling for the "support of parliamentarians to the United Nations resolutions condemning the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq, and the search of means likely to reestablish peace in the Arab-Persian Gulf."

The proposal, tabled as a supplementary item for the meeting's working agenda, was due to come up for discussion on Tuesday, along with two previously agreed items linked to colonialism and illiteracy.

The conference, which ends Saturday, approved by a larger margin a last-minute Italian proposal calling for support for the U.N. Security Council's Resolution 672, which expressed concern for the killing of Palestinians in Jerusalem last week.

Delegations, with votes allotted according to the size of their countries' population, discuss and vote on issues as one political body. The Inter-Parliamentary Union, which describes itself as an organization that is to parliamentarians what the United Nations is to governments.

Though the conference's decisions are not binding, delegates are convinced they carry considerable moral force.

"These votes are the outcome of the delegates' political discussions," Algerian National Assembly member Bouguettia Boualem said. "For example, as representatives of our people, we feel the plight of the Palestinians should be openly debated to urge for their protection."

Arab parliamentarians met before the start of the conference Monday afternoon to discuss the French proposal condemning Iraq and another motion presented by Iran calling for a condemnation "of aggression in general, and invasion of foreign forces of the Middle East in particular."

Representatives from 10 Arab states could not find common ground and decided to give their members freedom to vote as they saw fit.

"There are many differences among the Arab groups. Some thought the Iranian proposal was too comprehensive for this meeting and preferred the French motion because it was more precise," Arab Interparliamentary Union spokesman Nouriddine Bouchekroun said.

While Syria and the United Arab Emirates supported the French proposal's inclusion, Algeria, Jordan, Iraq and Libya voted against it. The final count was 903 votes in favour, 103 against and 54 abstentions.

Iran's proposal was defeated 338 to 629, with 92 abstentions. The proposal related to the killing of Palestinians in Jerusalem was accepted by 973 votes in favour, 33 against and 50 abstentions, after Algeria and Sweden agreed to drop overlapping proposals in favour of Italy's compromise motion.

Israeli head delegate Joshua Matza tried to persuade legislators against voting for the proposal, saying Algeria was trying to distract their attention from the Gulf crisis.

"My government has set up a committee of inquiry to look into the events that led to the Oct. 10 incidents," Matza said, adding in Spanish: "Do not throw more wood into a dying fire."

Israel's 11 negative votes were accompanied by seven each from the Canadian and Dutch delegations, three each from Finland's and Nicaragua's groups and two from El Salvador.

Iraqi parliamentary delegates urged the conference Monday to press for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis but said their country will not budge on its claims to Kuwait.

Speaking to reporters at the conference, the vice president of Iraq's National Assembly, Ghazi Aziz Khadouri, also called for an immediate end to the international trade embargo against Baghdad.

Iraqi legislator Mohammad Adhni said his government would support a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis but said such an outcome must be tied to international agreements on the Palestinian and Lebanese problems.

"Iraq wants peace and is ready to talk about finding a solution, but this must be included in a wider context. We also want a solution for Palestine and Lebanon," Adhni told Reuters.

Khadouri acknowledged the crisis had hit developing nations by causing crude oil prices to skyrocket but said Iraq tried to dampen that effect by offering free oil to poor nations.

"What the Third World countries must do now is press for a peaceful solution to the conflict and take advantage of this opportunity to break the U.S. embargo and get the free oil," he said.

The United States is leading an international military and economic campaign against Iraq.

The Gulf crisis, the first major threat to world peace since the end of the cold war, was mentioned by virtually every speaker at the six-day conference, united nations of parliamentarians.

"We cannot but mention the Gulf crisis, which has imperilled the world's peace and has already halted economic growth in rich countries and threatens developing nations with even worse sufferings," said the inter-parliamentary council's president, Daouda Sow.

Hrawi minister: Hostages will be freed

BEIRUT (AP) — A cabinet minister in President Elias Hrawi's government said Tuesday Western hostages held by pro-Iranian extremists in Lebanon were about to be freed.

Agriculture Minister Mohsen Dallou said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's government has "achieved progress" in its efforts to free the hostages, who include six Americans.

"The question of the hostages is about to come to an end. Our Syrian brothers are carrying out contacts and have achieved progress," Dallou told the leftist Beirut newspaper Al Safir.

The daily said Dallou declined to set a specific date for the release or say whether the hostages would come out altogether or in installments, beginning with the British captives.

"We should not talk about this subject so that we would not spoil the ongoing efforts," Dallou was quoted as saying.

Another Lebanese leader close to Syria, Abdullah Al Amin, said efforts to free the hostages were not likely to be affected by the weekend crushing of rebel General Michel Aoun's 11-month mutiny.

"The attack on Aoun's enclave cannot be linked with the issue of the foreign hostages. Here are two totally separate issues," Amin told the Associated Press.

There has been speculation that Syria's preoccupation with preparations and execution of the attack that was mounted on Saturday would delay the anticipated release of British hostages.

Media reports before the assault on Aoun's enclave said Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and possibly British journalist John McCarthy would be released in a matter of days.

These reports said the move would be the fruit of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Britain and Iran and a subsequent visit to Tehran by the Syrian president last month.

"I don't think the attack will hinder or delay the release of the hostages. Their captors aren't likely to be concerned with the attack and when they decide to release them, they will," Al Amin said.

The attack was mounted by Hrawi's army and Syrian troops from three directions, one of which was south Beirut's Shiite slums where most of the Western captives are believed to be held.

Militiamen of the Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hizbollah have since been clashing with a pro-Syrian Christian militia in suburban Hadath, a Christian residential district close to the Shiite slums.

Hizbollah is believed to be the umbrella of underground fanatics holding most of the Westerners in Lebanon.

Amnesty reports detentions and torture in Egypt

LONDON (Agencies) — Egyptian security forces are continuing to detain and torture government political opponents, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

"Arbitrary detention and torture have been going on intermittently since the state of emergency was re-imposed nine years ago and may well continue as long as the security forces can detain and torture with apparent impunity."

In its latest report on Egypt, the worldwide human rights organisation says most victims have been members and sympathisers of Islamic groups, many of whom have been arbitrarily detained and tortured for information or confessions.

"Victims have been suspended by the wrists from barred windows or doors," Amnesty International said.

"Many more have been beaten or given electric shocks, including some this year. Threats of sexual abuse have also been made against detainees or their wives."

Most at risk from torture are those who are unlawfully transferred to special security police centres, where they are cut off from lawyers and relatives.

Eight thousand people were reportedly detained for political reasons last year and the detentions are continuing, although the number of arrests is lower this year.

Anyone can effectively be held for months without charge or trial if the interior ministry says they are a "threat to national security."

"By abusing its emergency

powers of detention and casting its net too widely, the government has detained many innocent people without charge or trial, including the family members of opponents it wants to detain."

Amnesty International said the role of the courts was being undermined because the government contested court orders to release a person or issued repeated new detention orders if all else failed.

Suspects have been detained this year without any detention orders at all, and are not informed of their rights or their families told of their whereabouts.

"The government is failing to respect its obligations under national and international law," Amnesty International said.

Egypt was one of the first states to ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture in 1986 but the government has failed to investigate countless official torture complaints, which it is obliged to do promptly and thoroughly.

Amnesty International said those responsible for human rights violations must be brought to justice and all detainees should be brought promptly before courts so that the lawfulness of their detention can be examined and to safeguard them against torture.

The organisation presented its findings to the government in February asking for comment on specific cases. It held talks with the government in May but has still received no response on the cases.

Prominent U.S. rabbi urges Israel to cooperate with U.N

NEW YORK (R) — A prominent American Rabbi urged Israel Monday to cooperate with a U.N. team probing the killing of Palestinians in Jerusalem in order to make its case to the world and refocus world attention on the Gulf crisis.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said Israel's decision not to cooperate with the U.N. mission would "protract the crisis at the U.N. divert attention from Iraq's rape of Kuwait and aggravate U.S.-Israel relations."

"And it will give rise to the unnecessary suspicion that Israel has something to hide," said Schindler, whose organisation comprises 840 reform synagogues in the United States and Canada.

The United Nations Security Council condemned Israel on Friday for killing the Palestinians in Jerusalem and called on the Secretary General to send a mission to Jerusalem to investigate the deaths.

President George Bush said Monday the United States, Israel's guardian ally, supported full implementation of the resolution.

Washington has no opinion on fate of Aoun

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Monday it had no opinion about what should happen to defeated Lebanese rebel General Michel Aoun, who has taken refuge from Syrian forces in the French embassy in Beirut.

"Our position has always been limited to advice that he, General Aoun, step aside. We have never taken a position on what should happen to him after doing so,"

said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

The General, who vowed to fight to the death, fled Saturday after an attack on his headquarters and sought asylum with his family at the French embassy.

About 300 people were killed and 1,000 wounded in the six-hour battle which ended nearly two years of defiance by Aoun against the Lebanese government headed by President Elias Hrawi.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

New resignations shake Algeria's FLN

ALGIERS (R) — A former Algerian prime minister has quit the central committee of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) in the latest of a series of resignations to shake the party. The FLN daily Al Moudjahid said Tuesday Abdel Hamid Brahimi, prime minister from 1984 to 1988, resigned in protest at what he called the lack of democracy in the party that monopolised political life in Algeria for 27 years. The FLN, widely discredited by charges of corruption and mismanagement, was crushed in the first free elections for local councils last June by opposition Muslim fundamentalists. Five months before next year's parliamentary elections, it is torn between opponents and supporters of the government's liberal economic reforms and between old guard leaders and rebellious rank and file youth. Brahimi, an economics professor at Algiers University, accused former public officials in March of pocketing a total of \$26 billion in bribes and commissions. He was roundly criticised by FLN leaders at the time who dismissed the charges as exaggerated and politically damaging. A parliamentary commission was set up to investigate. Earlier this month another former prime minister, Kasdi Merbah, resigned from the FLN to form his own party. He denounced the government's economic reforms, designed to introduce a market economy by 1991. Brahimi criticised what he called "the absence of real democracy" within the FLN and the way it was being renovated under a plan launched last month to rejuvenate party ranks.

Two car bombs rock north Nicosia

NICOSIA (R) — Bombs planted in two cars exploded in north Nicosia within five minutes of each other early Tuesday but police in breakaway north Cyprus said no one was injured. The blasts destroyed cars belonging to Hurrem Tolga, a left-wing political figure, and businessman Sabri Tahir, as well as other vehicles. Six blasts have now hit the Turkish-Cypriot northern state since September 1989. Few injuries have been reported. No one has so far claimed responsibility for Tuesday's blasts but the underground "Cyprus Turkish People's Movement" said it carried out some previous bombings. The left-wing Yeni Duzen newspaper said Tuesday the group had distributed leaflets Monday threatening other underground movements of the left and right. The group describes itself as a continuation of the Turkish resistance movement, TMT, established in the 1950s to counter Greek-Cypriot EOKA guerrillas fighting British colonial administrators for union with Greece.

Sweden scraps travel curbs on Kurds

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden Monday revoked travel restrictions on five Kurdish immigrants who had been considered terrorists and confined to their towns of residence since 1984. The alleged members of the Kurdish left-wing separatist group PKK will be allowed to travel freely and no longer need police permission to change jobs or home addresses, a Labour Ministry statement said. The late Prime Minister Olof Palme's government declared the PKK a terrorist organisation in 1984. Stockholm still considers it to be so and the five immigrants were instructed to continue reporting to police twice a week, according to the ministry which also handles immigration issues. In 1984 Stockholm ordered the expulsion of alleged PKK members suspected of complicity in the killing of a PKK defector in Sweden. But the government rowed back from expelling the five after they said that they faced execution in Turkey.

Norway plans to ship fuel to Gulf

OSLO (R) — Norway's centre-right government said Monday it planned to send a ship with a cargo of fuel to support the U.S. fleet enforcing the international blockade of Iraq. NATO-member Norway has already backed the blockade by sending a coast guard vessel to the Gulf. "The government will shortly propose to parliament that Norway should charter a ship and partly finance a cargo of fuel for the use of the U.S. fleet which is taking part in imposing the boycott of Iraq," Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik said. "American authorities have expressed satisfaction with the Norwegian support," he said in a statement. Norway has earned hundreds of millions of dollars in extra export earnings because of the high prices of North Sea oil since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August.

Kurdish prisoners on hunger strike in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Nearly 200 Kurdish inmates of a prison in southeastern Turkey have been on hunger strike for a week to protest at the transfer of 87 fellow-convicts to other jails, official sources said. The strikers in Diyarbakir City jail began the fast last Tuesday after the convicts were sent to prisons in the western Turkish cities of Bursa, Aydin and Eskisehir, they said. Diyarbakir prison officials said the 87 convicts were moved to ease overcrowding. Most of the transferred prisoners and the hunger strikers are serving terms related to a six-year-old separatist Kurdish insurgency in southeastern Turkey, the sources said. More than 2,600 people have been killed in the southeast since the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) launched its violent independence campaign in mid-1984.

Quake measuring 5.5 strikes Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted the Iranian town of Tabas and nearby areas, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Tuesday. The Geophysics Institute of Tehran University said the quake struck at 10:38 p.m. (1908 GMT) Monday 600 kilometres southeast of Tehran, the news agency reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said no reports of damage or casualties had been released. In July, tens of thousands of people were killed in an earthquake that devastated a large part of northwestern Iran. A quake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale, which measures ground motion recorded on a seismograph, can cause considerable damage.

Japan finalises Gulf plan

TOKYO (R) — After weeks of drawn-out debate, Japan finalised Tuesday a bill that, if passed by parliament, will permit the government to send troops overseas for first time since World War II.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and his cabinet put a stamp of approval on the United Nations Peace Cooperation bill, drawn up after six weeks of heated deliberations between politicians and government officials.

The legislation will be debated in parliament over the next four weeks and, if passed, will take effect two to four months later, government officials said.

Socialist Party leader Takako Doi, who heads an opposition bloc against the bill, lashed out at Kaifu in parliament on Tuesday. "Prime minister, are you not asking the youth of Japan to shed blood on a battlefield?" she thundered.

Doi said the opposition, which holds a majority in the upper house, would block passage of a bill which she said ran counter to Japan's anti-war constitution.

Although Kaifu's ruling party has a majority in the lower house, it has only 110 seats in the 253-strong upper house.

Libya will mobilise 1 million people if Gulf erupts — Qadhafi

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said developments in the Gulf could force Libya to put one million people under arms in a general mobilisation, the official news agency JANA reported on Tuesday.

"Should anything happen in the Gulf, we will be forced to declare a general mobilisation like all other countries taking a similar move," Qadhafi told members of the People's Guard in Tripoli Monday.

"Egypt, Turkey and a number of other world countries have declared a mobilisation. Some of them did so because they would send troops to the Gulf, while others want to take part in the war or as defensive measure," JANA quoted him as saying.

"We, too, should anything happen in the Gulf will be forced to declare a general mobilisation and recruit at least one million Libyans to be under arms as we do not know what developments may take place," he added.

Libya opposes Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and the deployment of the U.S.-dominated multinational force in the region.

Qadhafi said: "The liberation of Palestine is one of the biggest and most dangerous battles facing the Arab Nation."

"The international community should impose its will on the Zionist gangs, dissolve the Israeli

state and set up a Palestinian state grouping Jews and Arabs alike," he added.

"Should such a state which the world may enforce one day to avert an armed conflict fail to materialise, a long-term people's war will be launched by the Palestinian resistance backed by the Arab Nation," Qadhafi said.

U.S. naval forces in the Gulf region are now strong enough to carry out an attack if necessary, the navy's commander in chief said.

Asked by reporters whether he had enough power to consider offensive action, Admiral Henry Mauz said: "Yes, I do."

"I am confident that the U.S. navy forces are adequate in number and type to respond to any crisis," he said at a news conference on board his command ship USS Blue Ridge.

The Israeli military, which is handing out gas masks against an Iraqi chemical attack, said on Tuesday it doubted that a Gulf war was imminent.

"The matter of the Gulf is shaping up as something that won't end in a day — not in a number of weeks and perhaps not in months," Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said.

"We must be prepared for every possibility. Even if the probability is low, we are preparing for every possibility," he told Israel Radio.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:30 Local programme
18:35 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Arabic programme
22:00 News in English
22:40 Play

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 Economic Perspective
22:00 News in English
22:20 Family of Spies

PRAYER TIMES

04:19 Fajr
05:36 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:21 Dhuhr
16:55 'Asr
17:06 Maghrib
18:23 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifflah, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624950
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654952.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Unstable weather conditions will prevail. Thus, cloud increase and there will be a chance for scattered

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

showers of rain. Winds will be easterly moderate causing dust, especially in desert areas. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly fresh wind and wavy sea.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 16 / 29
Aqaba 22 / 37
Deserts 16 / 31
Jordan Valley 24 / 37

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 29, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 17 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakher Balthis 625778
Dr. Yousef Samour 615648
Dr. George Sakoun 776751
Dr. Hisham Kassar 780286
Fires Pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nawrokh pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 656730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

IREID:
Dr. Ahmad Bishawi (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Saleman Abu Adila (—)
Khafif pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 624412
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010220

Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repair 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-33200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53300

REPAIRS:
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repair 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Elmas Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musabir Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Indian, Al-Musabir 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amn. 773111/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/20
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987332

IREID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272727
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

14:00 Damascus (RJ)
14:30 Jeddah (RJ)
14:30 Larnaca (RJ)
14:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
14:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
14:30 Larnaca (RJ)
14:30 London (RJ)
17:30 Madrid (RJ)
18:30 Paris (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

14:00 Larnaca (CY)
14:00 Jeddah (SV)
14:30 Benghazi (LY)
15:00 Sam's, Jeddah (TY)
15:15 Cairo (MS)
15:30 Dubai (EK)
15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
15:30 Frankfurt (LH)
15:30 Damascus (PK)
22:20 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:00 London (RJ)
17:15 Athens (RJ)
21:00 Riyadh (RJ)
21:10 New Delhi (RJ)
21:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
02:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
10:25 Larnaca (CY)
11:45 Athens (RJ)
12:00 Jeddah (SV)
14:00 Baghdad (LY)
14:30 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg

Apple 300 / 260
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukammal) 450 / 400
Beans 350 / 300
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrots 250 / 200
Cauliflower 180 / 140
Cust 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 100 / 60
Cucumbers (small) 200 / 150
Dates 450 / 400
Eggplant 220 / 180
Figs 500 / 300
Garlic 900 / 800
Grapes 400 / 300
Lemon 100 / 80
Melon 200 / 150

Jordanian, Iraqi Red Crescent to organise 'peace gathering'

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian and Iraqi Red Crescent Societies, Wednesday initiated a 'humanitarian gathering for world peace' which would be held in Amman, Jordan, in the near future. The gathering would be held in Amman, Jordan, in the near future.

The gathering for world peace comes at a time when the Gulf crisis and the turmoil in the Middle East are high. According to Dr. Mohammad Al Hadid, vice president of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), the gathering is aimed at making the public opinion reject armed conflict, prevent "ruining humanity," try to alleviate the suffering of people regardless of boundaries and to adopt peace initiatives that would bring peace to the area.

The gathering, which was prompted by the Gulf crisis and the incidents in the West Bank, is hoping to attract members from the 149 countries that belong to the Red

Crescent and Red Cross societies throughout the world. "I think people are interested in the gathering. All the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are calling for peace now so I think it will be successful and the gathering will be adopted by everyone," Hadid says.

"But this will all be decided upon in the peace commission on Oct. 16," he adds. Priority on the agenda will be trying to convene a third world peace conference. The first peace conference was held in 1975 in Belgrade and the second took place in Holland in 1984.

"It is time we had a third peace conference," Hadid says adding that "we must push all the decision makers to visualise the need of peace all the time."

Hadid adds that the gathering will be organising an international seminar entitled "Yes for Peace, No for War" as well as asking for a day in the year to be devoted to peace. "On this day everyone would stop all their violent activities and devote the day for peace," Hadid asserts.

The gathering also plans to

make a bulletin and invite all the youth worldwide and group them in camps which would be known as "camps for peace." "Here the future generations would see the real value of peace and would respect peace and never think of war," Hadid says, explaining why it is important to involve youth in such activities.

The conference and the gathering will deputize some members to take messages of peace to all the conflict areas in the world. "We are concerned about what takes place globally because we are a part of this world. The gathering therefore knows no boundaries," Hadid says.

Earlier this week the Jordanian and the Iraqi Red Crescent societies held talks on the troublesome situations in the world, especially in the Israeli held territories. This has prompted us to try to form the gathering for peace even harder. "I am optimistic that we will get a lot of members since this has not been thought of before," Hadid affirms.

The gathering will condemn the massacre and relay the message to the world concerning any violation to the humanitarian law.

Queen returns after summit for children

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein has returned to Amman after a trip to the United Nations where she took part in the World Summit for Children held at the U.N. headquarters representing His Majesty King Hussein.

The Summit, which was convened by UNICEF to mobilise world wide attention to the plight of children and to put them and their families on the agenda of the 1990's, was attended by 76 heads of states.

Queen Noor also met with UNICEF director for the Middle East and North Africa to discuss UNICEF's efforts in Jordan to maintain the significant advances it has made in improving the quality of life for children and to meet the challenges from the present economic situation.

The Queen also emphasised the importance of protecting children and ensuring their essential needs in times of conflict.

Queen Noor discussed with Dr. Nafis Sadeq of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) the fund's present and future cooperation efforts with Jordan. UNFPA financed training programmes for women, administered by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, have provided work and income earning opportunities for women by enabling them to start small businesses, and have contributed to the national economy by increasing national production and decreasing the need for imports.

Queen Noor was also a guest of honour at a fund-raising luncheon commemorating the Near East Foundation's 75th anniversary. The Queen delivered a speech recognising the foundation's contribution to agricultural and com-

Contacts underway for Saudi, Jordanian ambassadors' return

By Samir Hiyari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The foreign ministries of Jordan and Saudi Arabia are holding contacts on the prospect of returning their respective ambassadors to their posts following a period of strained relations in the wake of the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Informed diplomatic sources at the Foreign Ministry here told the Jordan Times that the Saudi Arabian government had asked that Jordan return its Ambassador

Nasser Al Bataineh to Riyadh first because it was he who was first recalled by the Jordanian government in protest against Saudi Arabia's decision to reduce the number of the Jordanian Embassy staff and cut off oil supplies to Jordan.

The Saudi Arabian ambassador was recalled by Riyadh in reprisal to the Jordanian action earlier this month.

The sources told the Jordan Times that Egypt was mediating between Amman and Riyadh to restore normal diplomatic rela-

tions which soured in view of Jordan's stand with regard to the Gulf crisis.

Bataineh told the Jordan Times upon his return to Amman that he was recalled by the Foreign Ministry here but "the move did not mark a cut in relations." Bataineh said that upon the Saudi Arabian government's request, staff at the embassy in Riyadh and the consulate in Jeddah were reduced drastically.

The withdrawal of 24 diplomats from Saudi Arabia, he said, left only 10 member staff in Riyadh and Jeddah.

GUVS awaits approval for food convoy for Iraq

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is waiting for the United Nations Security Council Sanctions Committee to approve a truck convoy carrying milk, food and medicines to Iraq as "not breaking the mandatory sanctions" to which Jordan is bound to abide, said Tuesday Abdullah Khatib, president of the Jordanian General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

After a letter signed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran asked GUVS to hold the shipment until the U.N. Sanctions Committee had approved them, the organisers complied and prevented the trucks from leaving their home base only one hour before they were scheduled to leave Amman for Baghdad.

A letter was sent Monday to the U.N. through the Jordanian Foreign Ministry to ask permission to allow the trucks to enter Iraq, Khatib told the press.

"Food and medicines should

under no conditions be part of any internationally sponsored sanctions against Iraq," Khatib told a group of reporters Tuesday at noon. "As a non-governmental organisation we did not believe that the U.N. would touch upon the issue of food, milk and medicine for children in the context of economic sanctions," Khatib said.

The U.N. resolution pertaining to economic sanctions needs clarification, said the chairman of the GUVS, Fakhri Bilbeisi, who also addressed the press conference.

"We understood the resolution to mean that food and medicines are not included in the sanctions but there seems to be some dispute about this," Bilbeisi said.

Khatib said that the organisation understood "completely" the situation the Jordanian government found itself in. "We know their arms are twisted we will not challenge their orders."

Asked what the GUVS would do if the U.N. decision

were negative, Khatib said "I doubt that the answer will be negative." Meanwhile Bilbeisi said that "if the answer were no," GUVS would use all means to change that decision as it would create a breakdown in humanitarian relations.

Khatib pointed out that Iraq was in need of medication and foodstuffs and that although Jordan's contribution was almost symbolic it was nevertheless needed.

"There are American NGOs helped the people in Vietnam when that country was at war with the U.S.," Khatib pointed out.

Bilbeisi said that it was GUVS' "duty to help needy people," and "people here are sharing their food with their brethren in Iraq. Jordan is facing tremendous hardships as a result of abiding to the economic sanctions."

"Don't forget that before the Gulf conflict we had 30 ships per day coming into our harbour in Aqaba and today we barely have three a week," Bilbeisi told the press.

UNRWA appeals for international support to continue aid to Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Commissioner-General of UNRWA — the United Nations Relief and Works Agency — Giorgio Giacomelli has appealed to the international community for support in providing "indispensable assistance" to Palestine refugees. His appeal, made in his annual report to the U.N. General Assembly which was issued in New York, comes as the agency faces mounting pressure to provide vital services for Palestine refugees, many of whom have been uprooted again in the Gulf crisis.

The report, written before the recent crisis and covering the period July 1989 to June 30, 1990, points to the continued violence and increasing economic hardship which many Palestinians face. Giacomelli said that during the year some 23,000 Palestinians

had been displaced by turmoil in Lebanon and 249 had been killed and more than 23,000 injured in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip — leading to an ongoing need for UNRWA's emergency services. Giacomelli warned that lack of funds could jeopardise this emergency aid.

He said: "Elsewhere in the area of operations, the difficulties confronted by the largest number of refugees are related to the economic situation prevailing in the host countries as well as in most other countries in the region. Skilled and semi-skilled Palestinians who had found employment outside Jordan and Syria, particularly in the Gulf states, returned in increasing numbers to their families with resulting loss of income and likelihood of continued unemployment."

Giacomelli said UNRWA had to manage its finances carefully so that the agency could operate its emergency programme in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as conducting regular education, health and relief and social services for more than two million refugees there and in Jordan and Syria.

The Commissioner-General stated that by mid-1990, UNRWA still needed some \$12 million to continue the emergency programme until the end of this year. A new injection of funds was also required to carry on the programme in 1991. Mr. Giacomelli said he was "profoundly concerned" that lack of funds could result in this indispensable assistance to refugees being cut or brought to a halt "within a matter of weeks."

Study shows Indonesia as potential market for Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Indonesia sold Jordan \$28 million worth of timber, tea and goods during 1988 and Jordan sold Indonesia \$34 million worth of fertilisers and phosphate, according to a study prepared by firm specialised in trade between the two countries.

The findings of the study were disclosed to Jordanian businessmen and exporters at a meeting held Monday evening at the Industrial Development Bank (IDB).

The study also covered the results of Jordanian industries' participation at the Jakarta International Fair which was held last June.

According to the study, Indonesia is a potential market for Jordanian products in view of its large population (around 180 million) and because Jordanian manufactured products are sold well.

Businessmen were told that samples of national products displayed at the international fair were of high quality and competed with products from advanced nations.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Ibrahim Badran who attended the briefing said that the ministry was exerting all possible efforts to offer financial and moral support to the Jordanian exporters and try to find for them new markets abroad.

The IDB had partly financed the study on trade with Indonesia as part of its own efforts to contribute towards promoting national industries.

Meanwhile, Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz was quoted as saying at a seminar, discussing the economic situation in Jordan and prospects for exports, that the government plans to set up a special fund to finance small industries whose products can be marketed easily abroad. "The government realises that the Jordanian industry is facing mounting challenges and problems, especially in acquiring raw materials and in opening letters of credit to finance imported goods, and it is doing all it can to help in this respect," the minister said.

Kabariti, Bouchard discuss cooperation in tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti discussed with French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard French-Jordanian cooperation in tourism affairs.

The minister briefed the

ambassador on the adverse economic effects the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions that imposed sanctions on Iraq have on Jordan.

He also thanked the French Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for providing the Ministry

of Tourism in Amman with a computerised system which is now used to provide information about archaeology and tourism.

The minister also voiced his appreciation of the efforts the French archaeological team exerted in excavations in Jordan.

EC sends relief aid

AMMAN — A Royal Jordanian aircraft carrying 29 tonnes of relief supplies donated by the European Community and the Italian Red Cross for use by the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) landed last night in Amman from Rome. The cargo of tents, blankets, medicines, rice, sugar and vegetable oil is destined for use in the camps established for people entering Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait, and will form part of contingency measures being taken to absorb possible future waves of evacuees into the coun-

try. In charge of the Italian Red Cross relief efforts is Pancrazio Standoni, who is liaising directly with officials of JNRCS in Amman over the distribution of the relief supplies. The European Commission has contributed a \$105,000 grant covering some 50 per cent of the operation.

The contribution comes from the \$77 million committed by the European Commission to assist the evacuation of Asian, Egyptian and other nationals forced to leave Iraq and Kuwait as a result of the crisis in the Gulf.

Germany offers Jordan technical assistance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The German government has pledged to provide technical assistance to Jordan to help it carry out a development project at the Zarqa River basin and to produce veterinary vaccines needed to boost the country's livestock wealth.

The pledge came in two memoranda signed in Amman Tuesday by Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah and the charge d'affaires at the German

Embassy in Amman.

Under the terms of the first memorandum, Germany will provide specialists and equipment and will pay the cost of a programme for the development of land for agriculture and increasing the area of farmland within the basin.

Ministry of Agriculture sources said that the total cost to be covered by the German government towards the implementation

of the scheme will amount to \$300,000.

The second memorandum concerns the production of veterinary vaccines under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation.

The German Charge d'Affaires Mathias Meyer voiced satisfaction with the workshop in Amman and said that his country's development policy includes promoting the agricultural production and rural development. He said that about 27 per cent of the total commitments for

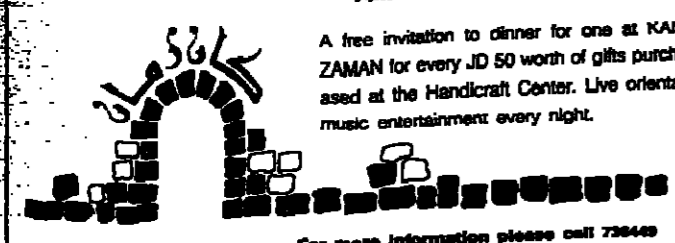
WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samin Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition entitled "Science in Profile" at the British Council.
- Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian, Iraqi and other Arab artists at Abu Art Gallery, 1st Circle.
- The Basil Hamida exhibition of fine handicrafts, weavings and quilts at the Abu Jaber Estate, Yalouch.

SPECIAL OFFER

Valid until 31 October 1990

A free invitation to dinner for one at KAN ZAMAN for every JD 50 worth of gifts purchased at the Handicraft Center. Live oriental music entertainment every night.



For more information please call 738449

Ministry of Public Works and Housing Government Tenders Directorate Central Tenders announcement Tender (46/90) (for second time)

Local contractors classified in the field of buildings grade first or second and willing to participate in this tender are requested to purchase tender documents from the Government Tenders Directorate Ministry of Public Works and Housing starting October 16th, 1990 according to the following:-

1. Description of tender:-
 - a. Construction of Al-Jaraween Comp. School Buildings (for Girls) Sahab. Area (4395) m².
 - b. Construction of Sahab Comp. School Buildings (for Girls) Sahab. Area (4395) m².
2. Tenders price (175) JD non-refundable.
3. Work load will be considered in awarding.
4. Project is partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
5. Last date for purchase of tender documents on 27th October 1990.
6. Offers shall be submitted to Government Tenders Directorate before 13.30 local time on Wed. the 3rd of November 1990.

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By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Jordan Times

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Fairness is indivisible

THE LATEST act cast by President George Bush in the context of the Palestinian and Gulf conflicts is his threat to call for the establishment of an international tribunal to try Iraq for its alleged crimes against humanity. It is indeed interesting to see Washington all of a sudden concerned about acts of this sort. War crimes and crimes against humanity have been a constant feature of the World War II era everywhere in the world. Why this rather abrupt interest in prosecuting Iraq for allegedly perpetrating such crimes after invading Kuwait is something that is open to only one interpretation. It is a theatrical tactic aimed to divert international attention from Jerusalem, where Israel has just committed an internationally-condemned atrocity against unarmed Palestinians living under occupation. Had Washington been truly concerned about crimes of this magnitude it would have proposed first of all to open an entire file on the issue and called for the establishment of a permanent international tribunal to prosecute all states, parties or individuals chargeable with the commission of such grave acts. Whether one begins with the dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the forties, when hundreds of thousands of innocent Japanese civilians were massacred, or the Vietnam war in the following decades when millions perished and suffered at the hands of the Americans, or in Palestine over the past sixty years, one wonders why the conscious of President Bush has been awakened only recently and only with reference to Iraq. This is not to suggest that Iraq's or for that matter any other Arab country's record is perfectly clean. Or that Arab states or groups have never breached international law more than one occasion. Rather, it is an expression of concern for yet another occasion where double standards and hypocrisy are being applied in one part of the world and where selectivity is once again being resorted to in order to prosecute a certain policy that draws heavily on obsession with Iraq. Many of the atrocities by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, and those perpetrated by the Jews against Arab Palestinians, such as the Dier Yasin massacre of 1947, are not just allegations. They are actions officially condemned and ruled to be crimes against humanity by the U.N. in the form of resolutions adopted in their aftermath. Where was the conscious of Washington when the Tel Al Zatar and Sabra and Shatilla massacres were committed?

We are for opening the entire file on war crimes and crimes against humanity. And we view as constructive the creation of a permanent international tribunal that would have a mandate to investigate all crimes against humanity and all war crimes. But we object to Mr. Bush's and Mrs. Thatcher's selectivity and bias, especially when they think and act on the basis of fairness as divisible and justice as negotiable.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IF Israel calls a U.N. inquiry mission to investigate the massacre of Palestinians in Jerusalem last week as interference in its internal affairs, what would the Arabs call the massing of foreign forces of 20 nations in the Gulf poised to strike against Iraq? asked Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. What we want from Moscow, Washington, London and Paris is no expression of condemnation of Israel's actions nor demonstrations in the streets voicing support for the Palestinians. "It is rather applications of the same moral standards which they used to apply in the case of the Gulf crisis," said the paper. It said that the Arabs want these capitals to stop Israel's crimes and end its occupation of Arab land, not by mere resolutions, but through action. Israel is now defying the world community, and the international legitimacy by rejecting U.N. Security Council Resolution 672 which entails dispatching a U.N. mission of inquiry to the occupied Arab territories, the paper noted. Such rejection cannot be expected to invite the major powers of the world to mass their fleets and armies against Israel or impose a blockade on the Jewish state as they did against Iraq, the paper continued. It said that the Arabs were quite happy to see Resolution 672 endorsed unanimously by the council members but it remains to be seen whether anything at all will be done to stop Israel's crimes.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily warns the Arabs against abandoning their preparedness or relaxing their efforts to confront the enemies on the eastern and the western flanks of the Arab World. Juma Hamad says nobody in the Arab World should be taken in by the Washington Post report that the U.S. president had decided to delay the war option against Iraq to give chance for the peace efforts. In fact, such statements should be considered as a part of the psychological warfare and a form of real war, reflecting the preparations being made in the dark, paving the way for aggression, says the writer. What we see in reality, he adds, is preparations in full swing for aggression on Iraq in the east, at a time when the Israeli enemy is escalating its atrocities and increasing its crimes on the Palestinian people in the west, says the writer. He notes that the Israelis have in fact reached a peak in preparations, and are now, poised to demolish Al Aqsa Mosque to build the so-called Jewish temple in its place, no one in the Arab World should be deceived by the Western media; and it should be understood that the U.S.-led alliance in the Arabian Peninsula is not for the sake of protecting Saudi Arabia or reinstating the Kuwaiti government, but rather to safeguard Western interests and to seize the oil wealth. The Western military strategies, he notes, base their plans and programmes in the current confrontation on the impact on such interests, and their loss and gain. He says that the Arabs need to offer a lot of sacrifice and steadfastness, but they will no doubt come out victorious.

Econopolitical Forum

Arab grievances and American fallacies

IN a world bedevilled by American domination and polluted by the American way of life, it does not seem that what matters is the truth but what the (Western) mass media presents as such, whether it is in fact the truth or fallacy. Thus rulers, peoples and states are easily and arbitrarily classified and reclassified into allies or enemies, terrorists or freedom fighters, and democrats or dictators. Thereafter, the mass media take on the task of beating the new classifications into the consciousness, or unconsciousness, of the public opinions in the East and West.

Two fallacies have been marketed around the world after the entry of Iraqi troops into Kuwait. The first is that the undisputed flow of oil (from the Gulf area) at reasonable prices was the main objective of the American military deployment in the Arabian Peninsula. The second is that the takeover of Kuwait by Iraq threatens the American national or vital interest.

I have tirelessly argued in this column that the Bush arguments here are fallacies. Either

Mr. Bush wants to fool the American people to support his military adventure in the Gulf or he himself is ill-advised by his aides who want to fool him into taking on that adventure.

Ten weeks after the eruption of the Kuwaiti crisis, it is really encouraging to find that the American talk about the flow of oil is diminishing, as it should, simply because this flow can not be a reason for the American power-madness. No Mideastern oil exporter can afford not to export oil to the world oil market and thereby to the U.S. Once this fallacy started to be refuted, the American public support for Mr. Bush's military option started to melt away. And this is a very normal outcome because peoples do not support wars.

As for the so-called vital interest of the U.S., Mr. Bush's argument here is sadly a replay of the traditional imperialist logic. Vital or national interest of any country has to peacefully reconcile with the vital interests of other nations and must not be promoted on the expense of them. In 1956,

Britain and France also alleged that the Suez Canal was so vital to their interests and that its closure or control even by Egypt would endanger their national interests and strangle their economies. The canal was taken over by the "dictator" Nasser and closed for years. That did not strangle them but it certainly called Eden's and Guy Mollor's bluff.

Mr. Arthur Schlesinger Jr. (professor of the humanities at the City University of New York and a winner of Pulitzer Prizes in history and biography) wrote an article in Wall Street Journal (Jordan Times, Oct. 4) on what he termed as the "Gamble in the Gulf." The article was so smart that I photocopied it and passed it around and the Jordan Times was wise enough to reprint it last Sunday. Every American citizen should read it; at this juncture, that would be a valuable contribution to the cause of reason and of peace. And I want to quote two of its paragraphs which do help to shed light on the two fallacies which Mr. Bush has been trying to sell to the world and public opinions.

The first paragraph relates to the oil-flow fallacy and reads as follows:

"Even in the worst case, Saddam cannot withhold oil from the world market. Indeed, we are punishing him today by not buying oil he would like to sell. He must sell his oil in order to get foreign exchange to subsidize his projects and pay his debts. If he puts the price up too high, he stimulates conservation and substitution. So let us not be panicked by vague fears about oil's disappearance, nor send Americans to die to bring it back to \$20 a barrel."

The second paragraph relates to the American vital interests which Mr. Bush alleges will be damaged by Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and reads as follows:

"Remember the great debate during the Vietnam war. The leaders of the realist school in foreign affairs — George Kennan, Walter Lippmann, Reinhold Niebuhr, Hans Morgenthau, William Fulbright — opposed American intervention because they did not think that the outcome of the Vietnam war would have

much impact one way or the other on the vital interests of the U.S. History has shown that they were right. Our intervention failed without perceptible damage to vital American interests. Let us not, as John Quincy Adams famously said, wander abroad in search of monsters to destroy."

The trouble is that Mr. Bush faces a "problem" which he wants to solve by means of the military option so to speak. Now this solution creates much more problems than it might solve. If Mr. Bush attacks Iraq, the dust of this very dangerous act will not settle in decades to come, if it ever settles. The implicit irony will be that a foreign power destroys an Arab country (Iraq) to salvage another (Kuwait). If the White House can stomach this irony, most of the Arabs of today and all the Arabs of tomorrow, will not, nor will a certain part of the American people.

Mr. Bush knows very well that the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait did not spring out from a vacuum. There was a certain grievance, and a very strong Iraqi sense of it, which prompt-

ed Iraq to send its troops into Kuwait. How can Mr. Bush solve the Kuwaiti crisis with the complete and provocative disregard to that grievance, that he has been very careful to show all along?

Mr. Bush can never imposed stability on the Middle East by American guns nor can he guarantee the continued oil flow in the long run by occupying oil fields. He can only do that by, first, redressing the grievances of the area (in Kuwait, Palestine, Lebanon) and, second, by achieving balanced economic development in it, through a Marshall-type plan. The costs of such a plan will be much less than the costs of the military option and far less than the costs of armament programmes which will be undertaken if these grievances stay around, not to mention its benefits to the area and the world.

The so-called unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait will leave the Iraqi grievance intact and will serve as a mere tranquilliser and thereafter as a recipe for future crises and everlasting instability.

Who commands the multinational forces?

By Ed blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Who commands what becomes a vexing question as more countries commit units to the multinational force confronting Iraq in the Gulf.

"The disparate allied armies ... in the Arabian desert must be forged into a unified fighting force if they are to defeat Saddam Hussein," said Michael Dockrill, who lectures in war studies at King's College, London.

Military analysts agree the estimated 350,000 troops, airmen and sailors from 21 countries cannot be an effective force until a chain of command has been established, with clearly defined operational areas and functions.

The U.S. and British air forces work closely together, but the French, Canadians, Italians and Belgians are also deploying aircraft.

U.S. President George Bush and allied leaders have met to discuss the problem as have the field generals. Bush said last month that, in the event of war, "the command structure will function very smoothly."

At sea, operational zones have been established for the eight western navies involved in enforcing United Nations sanctions on Iraq.

If war begins, wider cooperation will be essential on land as well as at sea and in the air. Artillery fire zones and

tank movements will have to be coordinated, communications systems integrated, and air defence sectors assigned.

Capt. Ton Van Gorp, who commands the two Dutch frigates in the Gulf, complained in a recent interview with the daily De Telegraaf of Amsterdam: "The way it is right now, I don't even know my assignment in time of war. ... We don't know what we're supposed to be doing."

"We want to know ... who's going to be in charge here if war breaks out, because it's getting more dangerous every day."

He said the lack of a unified command structure among the U.S., British, French, Italian, Canadian, Belgian and other ships could leave them badly exposed. Van Gorp said he preferred a U.N. command.

Most countries involved agree Iraq must be forced out of Kuwait, which it occupied Aug. 2, but not necessarily on how it should be done or who should do it.

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the U.S. commander, dropped a broad hint last month that the allies would have to do the job militarily when their forces were ready.

Saudi Arabia, sensitive to Muslim criticism for inviting the Americans to protect the kingdom and Islam's holiest shrines, said quickly that no attack could be launched from Saudi soil without its approval.

Three U.S. carrier battle

groups are in the area, however, plus warships armed with Cruise missiles. B-52 bombers are based on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

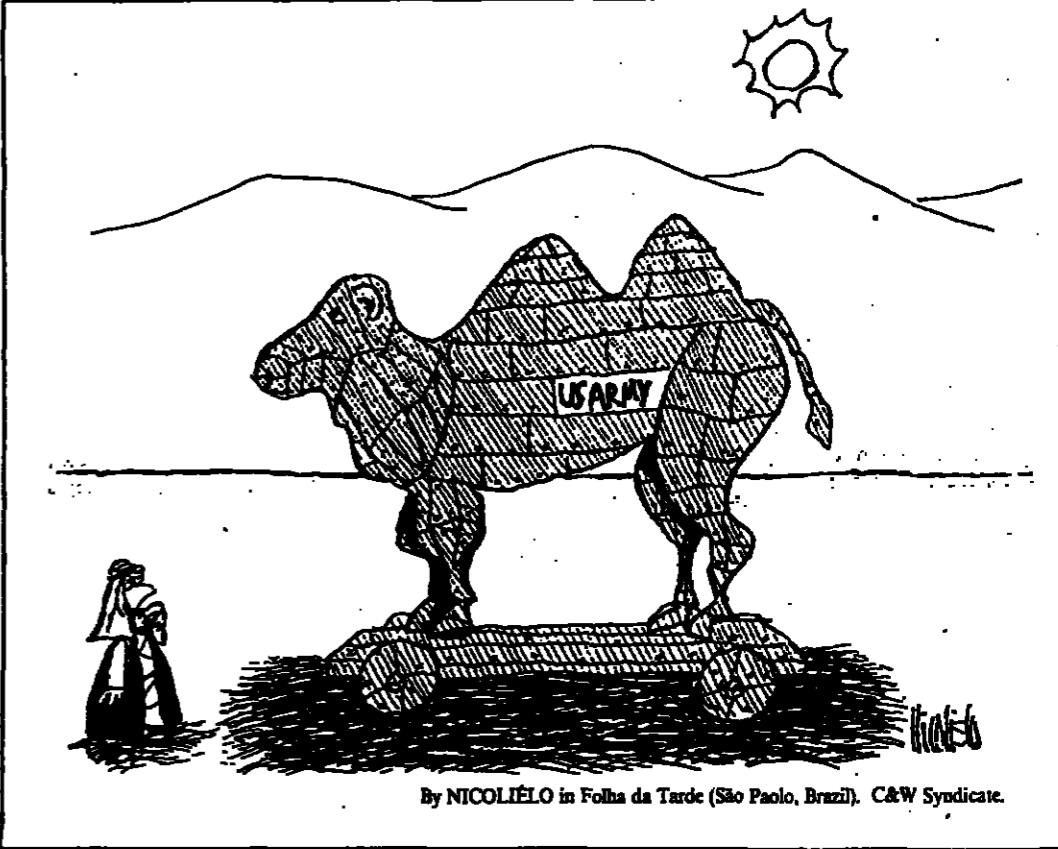
Who will be in charge of what in combat, and the need for overall coordination, are major questions. The Americans are by far the dominant force, with about 200,000 military personnel committed in the biggest U.S. overseas deployment since Vietnam.

A rapidly growing Arab-Islamic force from at least 11 nations is led by Gen. Khalid Bin Sultan, son of the Saudi defence minister, and is likely to put itself under U.S. command.

Britain has said it will coordinate its forces with Schwarzkopf's. Its 6,000-man 7th armoured division, known as the Desert Rats, has trained with U.S. troops in Germany during NATO manoeuvres.

France, not part of NATO's military command structure, has made clear it will operate autonomously and is deploying its 4,000-man rapid action force alongside Arab troops in the northeastern Saudi desert.

"This situation is containable while the various forces in Saudi Arabia remain on the defensive and each country occupies a well-defined sector of the desert," Dockrill said in a recent paper. "But what will happen if war with Iraq eventually breaks out and even goes in Iraq's favour? Previous ex-



By NICOLIELO in Folha da Tarde (Sao Paulo, Brazil). C&W Syndicate.

amples do not augur well for the outcome."

Noting large-scale multinational military operations in World War II and Korea, he wrote: "Unless coalition forces are tightly controlled by one supreme commander, with a clear chain of command as during the Normandy landings in 1944, setbacks can easily

lead to disaster if the enemy enjoys the benefits of good internal lines of communication and a cohesive and efficient command structure."

The Gulf armada, ranging from aircraft carriers and battleships to minesweepers, includes more than 70 ships from 12 countries, scores of jet fighter squadrons from 10 countries

and ground forces from 14, speaking four languages.

Military experts say a major risk is the possibility of one allied national force mistakenly firing on another in battle.

Some units have weapons Iraq also uses, such as French-built Mirage jets and Soviet-made T-72 tanks, making recognition difficult in combat.

Europe's neutrals rethink position in post-cold war era

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — Europe's neutrals are starting to rethink their position now that the post-war confrontation between East and West is fading away and there is not so much to be neutral about.

Not that any of the five main neutral states — Sweden, Finland, Austria, Switzerland and Ireland — is so far considering joining NATO, still less the crumbling Warsaw Pact.

But in recent months most of them have begun wondering what neutrality will mean in the future Europe and have taken or at least contemplated steps that until now they would have seen as violations of their neutral status.

Though the five have had different ideas of what neutrality entailed — is it compatible with membership of the European Community, say, or even the United Nations? — they have always agreed it meant not joining any military alliances.

But now, with the cold war ending, the neutrals are ceasing to feel the need to balance between two big military blocs in Europe.

Next month, NATO and the Warsaw Pact are expected to sign a declaration of non-aggression. With the East European states rejecting Communism, the pact is likely to drop its military role soon, leaving NATO as the only military alliance on the continent.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

and the consequent threat to world oil supplies have also forced the neutrals, which have always belonged to the western economic system, to think whether they can entirely stand aside from the defence of that system.

Some have long had doubts about neutrality. The Swiss writer Friedrich Duerrenmatt once said: "The attempt always to remain neutral reminds me of a virgin who earns her living in a brothel but wants to stay chaste."

And Irish wits are prone to ask: "Who are we neutral for and who are we neutral against?"

In two cases — Finland and Austria — neutrality was not so much a national choice as part of an international arrangement to preserve the East-West balance of power after World War II.

Those countries, while not repudiating neutrality, are now saying some of the restraints imposed on them are obsolete.

Finland last month surprised many when it unilaterally scrapped clauses in a 1947 Paris peace agreement which limited its military forces and stopped it buying military goods from Germany, with which it was allied for part of the war.

It also rejected mention of Germany as a possible aggressor in its 1948 friendship treaty with the Soviet Union.

perpower conflicts.

"In the future we will probably not be able to distance ourselves. We will be more closely involved in matters of the world than before," he said.

In Austria, Foreign Minister Alois Mock has indicated that he will unilaterally declare outdated certain parts of the Austrian neutrality treaty signed by the World War II allies — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

The restrictions include a ban on Austria buying aircraft or parts of them from Germany or Japan, on employing foreign airline pilots and on having missiles of any sort.

In an unprecedented move, Vienna responded to the Gulf crisis by allowing U.S. planes to overfly its territory carrying troops and supplies, although not arms, to the Middle East.

Unlike Finland, which still sees EC membership as incompatible with neutrality, Austria has applied to join the community, but Joerg Haider, head of the right-wing Freedom Party, says neutrality could hamper its application.

The head of the defence ministry's legal section, Erich Reiter, commented in a newspaper: "It appears that we are being called on to decide whether we want to be Europeans or neutrals. Neutrality is not the future, but the past."

Nevertheless, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky says Austria is staying neutral.

So is Sweden, where the chairman of the parliamentary defence committee, Carl Johan

Aberg, says: "We are not thinking about dropping our neutrality. But we need to change what it means in practice."

Sweden has always believed their neutrality rested on two pillars — compulsory military service and self-reliance in the most important weapons. But these items are now costing too much and many are asking whether they are really essential.

Last month, the ruling Social Democrats said Sweden could not rule out the possibility of EC membership.

Earlier the government had insisted the first aim was to create a "European economic space" grouping the EC and the six-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) to which Sweden belongs. EFTA-EC talks on this are under way.

Switzerland, whose "perpetual neutrality" was proclaimed at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, has taken the creed to the lengths of refusing to join the United Nations, a stance backed up once again by a national referendum in 1986.

But even there, foreign policy shifts are under way, as reflected in the country's unprecedented decision to join international sanctions against Iraq.

"Neutrality is an instrument of our foreign policy and must constantly adapt to its situation. When the European states take a stance in a particular case we can't simply cite our neutrality and stand aside," said Foreign Minister Rene Felber.

"The federal council (government) assumes that the U.N. file is not definitively closed," he told the weekly Die Weltwoche.

Only in Ireland, which is unique in belonging to the EC but not NATO, has the neut-

rality issue sparked relatively little debate.

Dublin has serious reservations about the community moving swiftly towards political union with the development of common military and foreign policies.

LETTERS

Bush, stop beating the bush about

To the Editor:

HE went too far this Bush of America; he'd better say what he wants, loud and clear. What else is he about to do next especially that the troops he sent to the Gulf make every decent Muslim wonder a thousand times a day: Till when can I take this insult and watch the holy Muslim land under the mercy of these intruders?

History will never forgive Bush and his allies. They want Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait ignoring that this should first be said to Israel, the aggressor who took over Palestine, another holy land, very long ago and nobody ever did anything positive about it. People were and still are slaughtered and deprived of their own land and rights. Monday, Oct. 8, was one of the blackest days in the occupied West Bank. What did the messenger of love and peace (Bush) do about it?

But Kuwait and the whole Gulf is another issue because there's oil and money in that region. We all know that Bush doesn't care about human dignity; he cares about oil and money and the bell with the camel-jockeys, as the American soldiers call the sheikhs of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Bush, stop beating about the bush and get your act together. But before that make sure you understand that Arabs aren't Red Indians, and stop treating us the way you do them.

Suleima Kayyal,
Amman

Government

(Continued from page 1)

"The tourism industry alone has lost \$250 million this year," Badran said.

Reiterating that the government would continue to comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 661 which imposed sanctions against Iraq, Badran said that trucks seen going to Iraq across the border were empty.

"Trucks have been spotted going to Iraq," he said. "These are empty. They are going to bring back the belongings of the 130,000 Jordanians

who have been repatriated... there is no reason to believe that Jordan is breaking the sanctions. We are not," Badran stressed.

Asked how Jordan's economic situation could be improved, the prime minister answered: "There is only one way... Article 50 of the U.N. Charter must be applied... Jordan must receive economic compensation for the losses it has already suffered and will suffer as a result of its compliance with the mandatory sanctions against Iraq."

U.S. urges Israel to cooperate

(Continued from page 1)

"What I said was I fear that some will try to make that comparison" between Israel's refusal to comply with U.N. resolutions and with Iraq, which has rejected a U.N. order to withdraw from Kuwait, Baker said he told Levy.

"I said... that it would be unfair and unjustified but I worry that that argument would be made in New York if the secretary general's mission was not permitted to come to Israel," he said.

Baker sidestepped a question on how far Washington might be willing to push Israel to cooperate with the U.N. mission.

"We've made clear our view that it would be good if Israel would permit the secretary general's representatives," he said.

"It is only in that way we think that Israel will be able to make its case to the secretary general's mission. Not to admit the mission we think moves Israel and moves our effort in the Gulf in the wrong direction," he added.

Washington is trying to preserve the uneasy coalition against Iraq that includes Arab states like Syria, Morocco and Egypt.

New questions about Israel's pledge not to beef up settlements in the occupied territories have been raised by Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon and a cabinet panel's decision to encourage increased settlements of Jewish Jews in Arab Jerusalem.

Levy last week sent Baker a

letter on the subject that strikes some experts as vague but which the secretary insisted was clear. Baker demanded the letter before releasing \$400 million in U.S. housing loan guarantees for Israel.

"It says government of Israel policy is not to direct or settle Jewish Jews beyond the green line... we know that East Jerusalem was not subject to the administration of the government of Israel prior to June 5, 1967. I don't know why you're having trouble," Baker told a reporter.

"We think the United States is and should be entitled to reliable assurances received in writing from the foreign minister from Israel... and you have the letter," he added.

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, said Tuesday he was willing to meet a U.N. investigation team despite the Israeli cabinet decision rejecting an outside probe of the Oct. 8 killings.

Kollek told Israel Radio that not to see the team would be a sign of weakness.

"I think that I am secure in our intentions and with the situation in Jerusalem, that whoever comes here I can receive them and answer them," said Kollek, who has been mayor since 1965.

He added: "Not to do this doesn't portray strength. It portrays weakness."

Kollek's statement was a break in what has been a solid wall of official Israeli opposition to the proposed U.N. investigation.

France, Lebanon seek to ease row

(Continued from page 1)

Aoun fled the presidential palace in east Beirut for the French embassy and surrendered after a Syrian air raid on the palace at dawn Saturday.

Syrian soldiers and Lebanese troops loyal to Hrawi crushed remaining resistance from Aoun's units after a six-hour battle.

Over 400 people were killed and 1,000 wounded, according to latest estimates from hospitals and military sources.

French President Francois Mitterrand insists Aoun will stay in the embassy until Lebanese authorities let him leave for asylum in France.

Hrawi's government had demanded he be handed over for trial. But Prime Minister Salim Hoss said Tuesday the government was still discussing Aoun's fate.

"We will soon take the appropriate decision... that guarantees Lebanon's national interest. We are certain that France will respect any decision taken by the Lebanese government," he said in a statement.

Ala said after talks with Hoss that Paris would not compromise on its decision to grant asylum to Aoun, his family and a few aides in the embassy.

"In this context, the Lebanese government should take a decision. It is not a matter of compromise," said Ala.

Lebanese Agriculture Minister Mohsen Dalloul said his government was determined to bring Aoun to trial on a variety of charges, including the theft of \$75 million from the ailing state treasury.

Syrian soldiers have told militia officials to keep their men off east Beirut streets, witnesses and security sources said.

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King: Mideast will never be the same with or without war

(Continued from page 1)

can't justify or condone, but the reason must have been pretty substantial to have had it happen. Both sides, I fear, gradually succumbed to a conspiracy theory about the other."

Quashing rumours

The King seemed especially eager to rebut a conspiracy theory that has gained wide credence in Arab circles since the invasion, that Iraq, Jordan and Yemen had been cycling Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for themselves, and had been planning for months before the invasion to divide up the oil-producing area among themselves.

According to these accounts, Iraq would have taken Kuwait, securing its long-sought free access to the Persian Gulf; Yemen would get part of disputed Saudi territory, and King Hussein, who is reversed as a 33rd generation descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, would be restored to his family's traditional role as a custodian of Islam's most sacred sites in Saudi Arabia.

He said Jordan wanted nothing but peace, and had not been forewarned about the Iraqi invasion.

The King argued, however, that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait could have been prevented through astute Arab diplomacy, and that American forces would not have been needed if the Arabs had enough time to resolve the problem themselves.

And, he said, the United States' decision to send forces to the Saudi desert was taken before the Riyadh Government formally requested them, and he said, seemed ultimately intended not to defend Saudi Arabia but to destroy President Hussein.

According to the King's account, he received an agreement from President Bush, in a telephone conversation within hours of the Iraqi invasion that he would be given 48 hours to secure a commitment from Mr. Hussein to withdraw his troops. The King said the commitment was given while he was meeting in Alexandria, Egypt, with Mr. Mubarak.

The King said he told the American and Egyptian leaders that he had talked to President Hussein by phone before flying to Egypt and that the Iraqi leader said he was planning to begin withdrawing from Kuwait within days. "Within a week we'll be gone," the King quoted President Hussein as saying. The King told Mr. Bush and Mr. Mubarak that the Iraqi leader had also warned that he "would not respond positively to threats or intimidation."

The Arab League foreign ministers were meeting in Cairo, and the King said, Saddam Hussein suspected that the ministers might call for foreign involvement. "Let us not scratch each other's eyes out," the King quoted the Iraqi leader as saying. "If things go that way, we may say Kuwait is part of Iraq and annex it."

Early the next morning, Aug. 3, the King flew to Baghdad, where he found President Hussein "fine and more relieved than on my previous visit six days earlier. The Iraqi leader,

he said, reiterated that he was willing to withdraw from most of Kuwait — exactly to where he did not say — and to discuss other grievances at a meeting of heads of government in Jeddah on Sunday, provided the Arab League did not condemn him or call for foreign intervention.

The King returned to Amman later that day, confident that agreement was possible, but he said he was unable to get either King Fahd or President Mubarak on the phone. While still waiting to convey the results of the Baghdad meeting, he said, he learned that Egypt had just condemned Iraq's invasion, and that the Arab League was preparing to take similar action that night.

King Hussein said he still did not understand why his initiative was undermined. But the condemnations dashed hopes of an early peaceful resolution to the crisis, he said, adding "Suddenly, it was all torn apart."

From the King's version of the crisis, an extraordinary picture emerged of the world of Arab politics — a milieu of secrets and conspiracies; of lies and treachery; of humiliations for him and other, poorer Arabs; of duplicity, revenge and broken promises, and of dashed hopes that, he said, had brought him to consider resignation.

"When you look beyond this," he asked, "what is there for us? I'm proud of what I've done in Jordan, but the region itself is sitting on a time bomb. So before the crisis, I was thinking of quitting. I won't quit in the middle of this. But I'll never be a burden to my country."

Ranging back and forth through his experiences in recent weeks, the King

shed fresh light on other aspects of the crisis.

Among other things, he said, after the invasion Mr. Hussein had told him that he had decided only late in July that military action was necessary. The King said the Iraqi leader had told him that he had decided to seize all of Kuwait, instead of the part of the territory long in dispute, because he expected the United States to defend the sheikhdom with force, and believed he would be in stronger position militarily and politically if he could eventually withdraw to a point that left Iraq with the disputed territory only.

The King said Saddam Hussein also told him that he never intended to invade Saudi Arabia, a threat that was originally cited by the United States in sending troops there.

Furthermore, the King said, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had told him, during a meeting at her country residence, that the United States troops were "halfway to Saudi Arabia" before they were formally requested. The King said he had confirmed this later through what he described as his own sources.

The King of this small country, flanked on three sides by Iraq, Israel and Saudi Arabia, seemed most agitated when expressing the view that the invasion could have been prevented.

On at least five occasions since the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988, he said, he had unsuccessfully tried to persuade Kuwait directly or through Gulf intermediaries to resolve the financial and territorial disputes with Baghdad that he said triggered the invasion. Saddam Hussein also made repeated, unsuccessful attempts, he

said. He said he first became concerned about an escalation of the dispute five months ago, at the end of May, at an Arab summit meeting in Baghdad.

"We had a closed meeting and he was very frank," the King said. President Hussein warned that his deteriorating country was being strangled by economic warfare waged by "his brothers" among Arab leaders, and that these leaders seemed indifferent to the fact that Iraq had protected them and their people with "the blood of Iraqis" during the just-concluded war with Iran.

Saddam Hussein had already tried to resolve the border issue during the Iran-Iraq war, the King said. Kuwait and Iraq had formed several different levels of joint commission to resolve it, but with no success.

The King's "second jolt" came when he learned that Iraq's Foreign Minister, Tariq Aziz, had sent a scathing public memorandum to the Arab League on July 15 accusing Kuwait of violating its oil-production quotas and of stealing Iraqi oil from the Rumaila field, which the two countries shared. Terrible consequences might result, Mr. Aziz warned.

In retrospect, neither Kuwait nor Saudi Arabia seemed to have trusted him, the King said. But he added that relations with Kuwait had never been easy. An assistant to the King described his visits to Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti emir, for discussions of financial matters, as a "tough exercise," and said that they had become increasingly humiliating.

By 1988, the Gulf states had stopped making payments that had continued for 10 years under a 1978 pledge to support Arab countries

threatened by Israel. Some had not made full payments. Jordan had a \$6 billion deficit. After 1988, the payments abruptly ended. "They were putting the squeeze on us and realised we were going to have severe internal problems," the King said.

In the spring of 1989, as he had feared, severe food rioting erupted in Jordan. Kuwait ultimately paid Jordan a modest sum, for which the King said he was grateful.

He said his final effort to warn Kuwait about the potential consequences of its deteriorating relationship with Iraq came late in July. On July 29, he visited Mr. Hussein in Baghdad.

"They were bitter," the King recalled, speaking of the Iraqis. They recalled with fury, for example, that after Iranian-backed terrorists had tried to assassinate the emir, "Iraq had blasted Iran with everything they had — ground to ground missiles, the works." Iran had retaliated, causing 1,500 civilian casualties, but Kuwait would not write off its debt, or end the border dispute, or stop stealing oil.

"I realised then that the situation was really very serious," the King said. "I knew they were hurting badly. The atmosphere was tense; the troops were on the border."

On July 30, the King visited the emir in Kuwait and expressed hope that a special meeting in Jeddah between Kuwait and Iraq, scheduled to open the next day, would succeed. And he warned that the meeting was critical.

"I pleaded with them," he said. "They were warm and cordial, unusually so. But there was no commitment, just hopes that it would not

fail." Before boarding his plane, he said, he had a premonition. "I looked at some Kuwaiti soldiers on the tarmac. I suddenly had a deep sense of sadness. Sometimes, leaders' failures can cost these young people's lives."

On the plane back to Jordan, the King said his aides told him that they, too, had failed to detect true concern in their meetings with the Kuwaiti foreign minister. "They said their constitution does not permit us to give up an inch of territory. We won't give in. If they attack us, we would call the Americans." The Kuwaitis' only concern, the King said he was told, seemed to be that relying on American military backing would be "embarrassing" because of American support for Israel.

He said he had learned of the invasion at 6 a.m. on Aug. 2, when King Fahd telephoned him and urged him to call Saddam Hussein and ask the Iraqi leader to withdraw to the disputed territory. "It's all Kuwait's fault," King Hussein said, quoting King Fahd. "They would be this adamant. They've brought this about."

The King said that he spoke to King Fahd rarely after that. On Aug. 6, the Saudi ruler invited "friendly forces" to assist in his country's defence. The next day, he sent an envoy to assure King Hussein that relations between Riyadh and Baghdad were fine, that there was no evidence of a hostile Iraqi buildup on the border, and that despite American assertions, there was no truth to reports that Iraq planned to invade Saudi Arabia. Later that night, the presence of U.S. forces in the Saudi desert was announced.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Gulf crisis hurts Saudi economy

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (R) — A Saudi business leader said the kingdom's economy had suffered from capital flight and double-digit inflation since Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Abdullah Dabbagh, secretary general of the Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, was quoted in the English-language Arab News as saying the invasion caused "a general erosion of confidence" and that foreign and domestic investment had been hurt.

"(There was) naturally some capital flight. I think there was anywhere between \$2.5 billion and \$3.3 billion that left the country," Dabbagh said in a speech to the British businessmen's group in Jeddah.

A Western diplomatic official told Reuters that the post-invasion capital outflow was "sizeable" and may have been even greater than \$3.3 billion.

Some of the money had returned to Saudi Arabia since the arrival of multinational military forces, the diplomat said but added: "There is still a net cash outflow."

Saudi banks had a total of about \$70 billion in deposits before the invasion, the diplomat said.

The kingdom was suffering from an inflation rate of 12 to 15 per cent because of the rial's linkage to the falling U.S. dollar, increased insurance rates and higher raw material costs, Dabbagh said.

He complained that foreign banks worsened the economic situation by suspending credits and full coverage of letters of credit.

The suspension, Dabbagh said, "was not expected and should not have been done."

"Basically, everyone was red-lined here," the diplomat said. Redlining is a banking term that means loans have been halted.

The diplomat said that foreign banks acted out of fear that the freezing of Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets that followed the invasion would adversely affect the Saudi economy.

Saudi Arabia exported about \$450 million in goods to the two countries in 1989, Dabbagh said.

Despite the current problems, Dabbagh assured the group that Saudi Arabia would withstand the crisis because "we have a stable political system, that although traditional and conservative in nature, has the dynamism to adapt and to cope with the present situation."

Boeing to launch new 777 aircraft

SEATTLE, Washington (R) — Boeing Co. announced Monday it would go ahead with production of its new computer-designed 777 twinjet after United Airlines placed a \$22 billion order, the largest in the history of commercial aviation.

Frank Shrontz, chief executive of Boeing, said United Airlines had ordered up to 68 of the 777 airplanes, which he said would set new standards in twin-engine passenger aircraft.

"With a ratification by Boeing's board on Oct. 29, this order will launch an all-new 777 aircraft family — which will set a new standard for very large twin-engine operations around the world," Shrontz said.

The order for the new generation 777, currently under development, cements the program Boeing only a month ago was close to scrapping.

The United Airlines order for a total 128 planes is the largest ever in dollar terms for Boeing.

OPEC puts blame on West for failing to rein oil prices

JAKARTA (R) — OPEC, the world's largest oil producing bloc, admitted Tuesday it could do nothing to rein in soaring oil prices and said it was up to industrial countries to help.

"Today it is clear OPEC has no means to influence prices ... and no intention to use any kind of pressure on anybody," OPEC President Sadek Boussena said.

He was speaking to reporters after taking part in a private energy conference in the Indonesian capital also attended by OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) ministers from Indonesia, Nigeria and Venezuela and the oil production group's secretary-general, Subroto.

Prices have about doubled to nearly \$40 a barrel since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August taking four million barrels of oil per day (bid) out of the market. OPEC countries are already producing at maximum to fill the gap.

Indonesian President Suharto, opening the conference, said rich consumer countries must release their oil stocks on to the market to curb speculation which is pushing oil prices up and threatening to lead to a global recession.

"This is the reason why I appeal to industrialised countries to take immediate measures aimed at minimising these extremely damaging speculative activities and to help overcome the fear of supply shortages by releasing their stocks which are, after all, intended for this purpose," he said.

Much of the pressure has come on the International Energy Agency (IEA) the West's energy watchdog, for refusing to meet OPEC to help bring prices down.

Venezuelan Energy Minister Celestino Armas said the West excused itself by saying it did not want to "manage" the oil price.

"But it is unrealistic to expect an orthodox commercial solution as if nothing abnormal were happening in the market. As I see it, it is not a problem of managing oil prices but of handling a political crisis," he pointed out.

Fresh platinum price collapse drags gold to \$360 an ounce

LONDON (R) — Gold plunged around \$15 an ounce in London afternoon trading Tuesday, triggered by speculative selling in New York gold futures and a sharp drop in the price of platinum, dealers said.

Gold fell as low as \$360 an ounce, compared with its morning fixed rate of \$375.15 and its Monday close of \$379.25. It is now at the lowest levels since July and has fallen some \$27 since Friday.

"It's fair to say that selling interest was widespread and general," a London bullion analyst said.

Dealers said the fall was triggered mainly by a fresh collapse in the price of platinum, which was fixed Tuesday morning at \$389.75 an ounce, its lowest since February 1986. Platinum, widely used in industry, has fallen on worries about recession in major Western economies.

"Everyone is platinum-watching. Platinum is what brought gold lower today and it looks as though the prices of the two metals could cross soon, on sentiment alone," another London dealer said.

Dealers said its status as a safe haven in times of political uncertainty was waning. It had been boosted over the last two months by the Gulf crisis, peaking above \$413 on Aug. 23, but a lack of fresh developments there recently had led to selling.

The only support for gold is what happens in the Middle East. If there is peace, we could easily be looking at \$320," the dealer said.

Metals analysts at the Nikkei Gold Conference in Tokyo said Tuesday that gold should show a glint of its former lustre in the 1990s thanks to falling global output and strong demand in Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

Gold production is likely to level off in the next few years and demand in various parts of the world will rise, said Alfred Schneider, first vice-president of Swiss Bank Corp Zurich.

"The market will focus again on the fundamental supply/demand pattern in the physical market, which I expect to be healthy enough to sustain a price level of \$370-\$390 per ounce..." Schneider told a gathering of about 180 gold industry officials.

Gold prices have dropped sharply since rising to nearly \$500 an ounce after the October 1987 stock market crash.

Schneider said production is likely to slow in countries that have shown the biggest growth rates in production in recent years, such as Australia, the United States and Canada.

Environmental concerns will make it difficult to open new mining projects in North America, and many mining operations in Australia will be exhausted.

Reconstruction in the East European economies should add a glow to the world gold market, said Rolf Willi, senior general manager and treasurer of Dresdner Bank A.G.

"We expect a thorough-going upswing (in East European economies) at medium term. Interest in jewellery and gold bullion in Eastern Europe should then increase significantly, possibly encountering a market on which supply is already beginning to contract," Willi said.

There are already signs of a gradual awakening in demand for jewellery in East European countries, though this will not make any impact until incomes rise significantly, he added.

Some analysts were less optimistic.

George Milling-Stanley, first vice president of Lehman Brothers said that current gold prices will be hard to maintain unless there is a significant upturn in jewellery demand.

Dublin Stock Exchange seeks niche in international fund listings

DUBLIN (R) — The Dublin Stock Exchange is making a concerted bid to carve out a new European niche for itself by attracting listings from international investment funds.

"We are a small national stock market and would never be a big player in Europe. We must look for a market niche. We decided on this one," said Tom Healy, managing director of the exchange.

International funds, established with money from investors who are intent on putting cash into international equities, bonds and other financial instruments, often need to be listed with reputable exchanges in order to attract new business.

Japanese fund managers, for instance, will not invest in funds which are not listed with a reputable stock exchange.

The small Irish exchange, one of Europe's oldest, hopes to persuade the funds that it would be user-friendly, maintain the integrity of its own regulations and seek to cut down on administrative and bureaucratic red tape.

But Dublin is facing an uphill battle for a bigger share of the market, which is already dominated by Luxembourg.

"London gets 10 to 20 new ones a year. Luxembourg gets 300 a year. We are extremely small fish and just getting started."

Luxembourg is the world leader in this but it is a big market and there is plenty of room," Healy told Reuters.

"At present we have five listed with us. These include Yamanichi and Merrill Lynch which give us credibility. We hope to have a couple more signed on this week and a few more in the pipeline."

The Dublin exchange charges 1,000 points (\$1,700) for a listing with a similar fee every year after that.

Gulf crisis may slow food trade

ROME (R) — The Gulf crisis could significantly slow down world food trade, an official of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Tuesday.

"High petroleum prices and the fact that food doesn't go into Iraq and Kuwait any more could lead to a reduction in worldwide trade," said Raphael Marsili, editor of Food Outlook, FAO's monthly survey of world food production and trade.

An international embargo sanctioned by the United Nations has blocked the flow of food and other goods into Iraq and Kuwait since late August.

"We are worried about what might happen if things go badly in the Gulf — Iraq and the countries in the Mideast are large importers of food," Marsili said.

Iraq produces only one-fifth of the cereals it consumes, importing over five million tonnes from Australia, Canada, the United States and Thailand, according to FAO estimates.

It imports half of its milk, milk products and meat and virtually all of its sugar from the European Community, South East Asia and Latin America.

The trade embargo has already created an unnatural surplus of wheat and other crops, driving world food prices down, Marsili said.

Wheat prices dropped to \$114 per tonne at the end of September from \$126 per tonne in July before the Gulf crisis erupted, FAO said.

Three Americans win 1990 Nobel economics prize

STOCKHOLM (R) — Three American professors, Harry Markowitz, William Sharpe and Merton Miller, shared the 1990 Nobel economics prize, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said Tuesday.

The academy said the three jointly received the four million Swedish crown (\$710,000) award for pioneering work in the theory of financial economics.

Harry Markowitz, professor of finance and economics at Baruch College, City University of New York, got the award for having developed the theory of portfolio choice.

Sharpe, professor of finance at Stanford Business School, Stanford University, shared the prize for his contributions to the theory of price formation for financial assets.

Miller, a professor at the Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago, received the award for his contributions to the theory of corporate finance.

The academy said Markowitz made the first pioneering contribution in the field of financial economics.

In the 1950s he developed a theory for households and firms' allocation of financial assets under uncertainty, the so-called "theory of portfolio choice."

"This theory analyses how wealth can be optimally invested in assets which differ in regard to their expected return and risk, and thereby also how risks can be reduced," the citation said.

The academy said Sharpe had made a further significant contribution in the same field during the 1960s.

"A number of researchers, among whom William Sharpe was the leading figure, used Markowitz' portfolio theory as a basis for developing a theory of price formation for financial assets," it said.

The citation said Miller had done further work along the same lines.

He had developed a theory which "explains the relation or lack of relation between firms' capital asset structure and dividend policy on one hand and their market value on the other."

The academy's permanent secretary, Carl-Olof Jacobsson, said he had spoken to both Sharpe and Miller.

"They were really startled and very happy," he said. Markowitz was attending a conference in Japan and had not been reached for comment.

Referring to the three professors' work, the academy noted that it was largely through financial markets that savings in different sectors of the economy were transferred to firms for investment in buildings and machines.

"Financial markets also reflect firms' expected prospects and risks, which implies that risks can be spread and that savers and investors can acquire valuable information for their investment decisions," it said.

Academy member Professor Assar Lindbeck said it was natural to give a joint award to the three winners.

"They provided one building block each for the theory of financial economics. The theory would have been incomplete without all three blocks," he said.

Bush economist sees tough times ahead

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economy is in for some tough times ahead but should be able to recover from the financial fallout caused by the Iraqi oil shock by the middle of next year, President George Bush's chief economic adviser said Monday.

"We're all very concerned about the short-run course of the economy," said Michael Boskin, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

"The oil shock... hits us at a time when the economy was not exactly robust."

Boskin told a forum that the U.S. economy will suffer weak growth and higher inflation in the months ahead because of the steep rise in oil prices triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

But he indicated that he expects the United States to avoid a recession, during which the economy stops growing and contracts for two straight quarters.

But Boskin's assessment is more optimistic than that of many private economists and businessmen, who believe that a recession is a virtual certainty, if in fact one has not already begun.

Even before the oil shock hit, U.S. economic growth was sluggish, amounting to a meagre 0.4 per cent in the second quarter.

Boskin said the economy continued to grow in the third quarter, with some regions, such as Texas, and some sectors, such as exports, performing well.

"The economy is going to grow weakly in the fourth quarter and early 1991," he said. "I'm optimistic of a rebound by the middle of next year."

Romania to devalue leu

BUCHAREST (AP) — Romania will devalue its national currency by almost a half and lift subsidies on most consumer goods beginning Nov. 1, a government official said Monday.

Economics Minister Eugen Dimarescu told Associated Press that the government had decided to devalue the Romanian leu from the current official rate of 20 to the dollar to 35 to the dollar.

Officials said the measures should help the leu to become fully convertible and Romania's devastated economy to adjust to free market practices after four decades of communist central planning.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, October 16, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	651.0	655.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	508.4	511.5
Pound Sterling	1263.7	1271.3	Dutch guilder	378.7	381.0
Deutschemark	627.2	629.8	Swedish crown	115.3	116.0
Swiss franc	504.3	507.3	Italian lire (for 100)	57.1	57.4
French franc	127.4	128.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	207.8	209.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
One Sterling	1.9410/20	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.5600/70	Canadian dollar	
	1.5255/60	Deutschemark	
	1.7195/7205	Dutch guilders	
	1.2880/90	Swiss francs	
	31.39/44	Belgian francs	
	5.1120/70	French francs	
	1142/1143	Italian lire	
	128.40/50	Japanese yen	
	5.6450/6500	Swedish crowns	
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Rwandan rebels retake Gabiro

GABIRO, Rwanda (R) — Rebels are swarming champagne and raising flares over captured armoured cars to celebrate retaking this small town in north-east Rwanda from Zairean and government troops.

Since rebels invaded from Uganda on Oct. 1, much of the fighting has focused on Gabiro — a strategic garrison town 70 kilometres north of the capital — which protects a tourist hotel and President Juvenal Habyarimana's private lodge.

The rebels first took Gabiro a few days after the invasion but were soon repulsed by the regular army, backed up by Zaireans sent to help Habyarimana. Last Friday, the government showed a group of Western journalists around the town.

But Saturday, the rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) — mainly refugees from the minority Tutsi tribe — retook Gabiro and are now firmly in control, according to a Reuters correspondent who visited the town Monday night.

"After shelling Friday we adv-

anced at 5:00 a.m. three kilometres over open ground under heavy artillery from the hills," said Major Peter Bayengama, effectively RPA number two.

Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts to end the crisis have been stepped up. Habyarimana will meet Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni Wednesday to try and resolve the refugee problem, diplomats said.

They told Reuters the meeting, chaired by Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, would take place at Mwanza on the shores of Lake Victoria in western Tanzania.

Habyarimana has accused Museveni of not taking action to seal his border and cut the rebels' supply routes. Uganda, which has some 250,000 Rwandan exiles, says the refugee problem must be solved once and for all.

Diplomats in Dar Es Salaam said a proposed peace plan would include an immediate ceasefire and an offer to those refugees who wish to do so to return.

Thousands of refugees fled tribal fighting between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi in the late 1950s and early 1960s and now live in exile in surrounding countries.

Habyarimana has always maintained his impoverished and overcrowded central African state could not afford a mass influx.

Senior Belgian ministers are expected to attend the meeting. Belgium, the former colonial power, has sent troops to Rwanda, but says they are only there to protect its citizens and will not become involved in the military conflict.

Habyarimana and Belgium's Prime Minister Wilfried Martens met in Nairobi Monday to discuss the crisis.

Rwanda said it would appeal to the United Nations Security Council for help and Belgium said it would raise the issue with its European Community allies.

Around Gabiro, Reuters saw piles of empty shell cases and spent machine gun cartridge cases littering the ground, but the re-

bels were encamped and the fighting had moved four kilometres further south.

Unburied corpses were scattered along the main road next to burned out trucks, evidence of the fighting in which rebels say four of their men died.

The death toll among government troops is unknown, but the rebels say they killed about 17 Zaireans and captured an armoured car at Gabiro barracks. The armoury was stocked with anti-aircraft guns, mortars, and rifles.

Reuters also saw captured artillery and armoured cars coming away from Gabiro, manned by jubilant teenage rebels.

The RPA is made up of fighters who deserted from Uganda's army. Many are teenagers. Women are also very much in evidence had have won the admiration of male troops as fierce fighters.

Young rebel soldiers were carefully removing wine glasses from the presidential lodge which has escaped extensive damage to fill them with fine champagnes found in the guest house.

S. Korean premier in Pyongyang

PANMUNJOM, Korea (R) — South Korean Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon crossed one of the cold war's last frontiers Tuesday and arrived in the North Korean capital for talks on ending 45 years of hostility, South Korean officials said.

Kang, the most senior South Korean ever to visit the Communist North, reached Pyongyang with his entourage by train after crossing the military line at Panmunjom where rival troops have stared each other down since the 1950-53 war.

Officials said Kang brought a verbal message from his President Roh Tae-Woo proposing a summit with North Korean President Kim Il-Sung, who has ruled the North with an iron fist since division in 1945.

"We have come here out of a single-minded hope that South and North Korea will be able to liquidate the past dark days of distrust and confrontation and instead build a trusting and helpful relationship at an early date," said a statement read by Southern Spokesman Lim Dong-Won at a Pyongyang guest house.

This is the second high-level meeting between the two sides. North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-Muk went to Seoul in September.

The two sides were unable to reach a firm agreement on any topic then and promised only to hold more meetings on United Nations membership and reuniting separated families.

Kang had proposed that the Koreans allow cross-border travel on major holidays, restore communications, reduce their armed forces to equal levels, and increase trade and economic cooperation.

Yon focused on three other issues — the release of three dissidents jailed for making illegal trips to North Korea, an end to annual joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises, and the sharing of a single seat at the United Nations.

Yon and Kang chatted for five minutes at the guest house Tuesday, officials in the South-North dialogue office in Seoul said.

Delegates will meet at the People's Cultural Palace Wednesday and Thursday to discuss ways to ease tensions on the peninsula, divided since the end of the World War II.

The North and the South remain rigidly opposed to each other's ideologies despite a flurry of contacts in recent months and changes in their ties with other countries.

Seoul and Moscow, Pyongyang's staunch ally for decades, set up diplomatic ties on Sept. 30, and Japan and North Korea have said they want to start talks on normalising ties.

In a separate development, Kim Dae-Jung and 41 other opposition lawmakers continued a hunger strike Tuesday, and the government party indicated it might make concessions to end a political stalemate.

Kim, head of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), the main opposition party, was in the ninth day of his hunger strike to dramatise demands for wider democratic reforms, including early elections for autonomous local governments.

U.N. Assembly adopts Cambodia resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The General Assembly filled Cambodia's U.N. seat with a peace-seeking National Council Monday in its first unanimously-adopted resolution on the South East Asian nation since 1978.

The resolution was the 159-nation assembly's first in 11 years that did not condemn Vietnam's December 1978 invasion of Cambodia, demand immediate withdrawal or pass on a divisive vote.

The vote on a similar resolution last year was 124-17, despite Vietnam's announced withdrawal.

The seat, which had been occupied by a three-party coalition opposed to the Vietnam-backed government in Phnom Penh, will be filled by a representative from a U.N.-brokered Supreme National Assembly charged with negotiating a comprehensive political settlement in Cambodia.

South East Asian diplomats said the seat would be filled once the Cambodian parties determine the composition of the council. The seat has been empty during the current General Assembly.

"The bitterness and acrimony of the past should be set aside," General Assembly President Guido Dimarco said. "What is

important now is for all the parties concerned to be given the opportunity to proceed with further efforts to ensure an early, comprehensive political settlement."

The consensus vote was made possible by the broad agreement on a political settlement between the Vietnam-backed government in Phnom Penh and the three Cambodian opposition parties.

They endorsed a peace plan drawn up by the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union — and agreed to transfer authority to a Supreme National Council in a transition period leading up to U.N.-supervised elections.

Since Vietnam's invasion, the Cambodia seat has been held by the anti-Vietnamese coalition of the Khmer Rouge, the non-Communist forces of Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Cambodian Prime Minister Son Sann.

The General Assembly repeatedly rebuffed Vietnam's efforts to secure diplomatic recognition for Phnom-Penh.

Column 8

New bridge to be named for De Gaulle

PARIS (AP) — A new bridge across the Seine will be named for Gen. Charles De Gaulle to mark this year's anniversary of his birth, death and appeal to France to resist Nazi occupation. Mayor Jacques Chirac announced last week that work on the new bridge linking Rue Van Gogh to the Austerlitz train station will begin before year's end and be completed in 1993. Chirac said the bridge will "pay solemn and durable homage to the man who most marked the history of our country during the course of this century." France has celebrated this year as the 100th anniversary of De Gaulle's birth, the 20th of his death, and the 50th of his speech from London urging France to resist the Nazis shortly after the country fell to German troops in World War II.

Irish children start to drink at 13

DUBLIN (R) — Irish children are starting to drink at 13 and the country could face a wave of alcoholism at a much younger age, a survey showed. The survey by a Dublin Hospital that specialises in treating alcoholics showed that 83 per cent of the teenagers questioned admitted drinking. Most of their parents did not know. Consultant psychiatrist Pat Tubridy said that if this trend continued, the average age of alcoholics in Ireland would drop from its current level of 45-55 to 25-35 within a decade.

Van Gogh theft probe put on back burner

DEN BOSCH, Netherlands (AP) — A police investigation into last June's theft of three Vincent Van Gogh paintings has officially been put on the back burner after a 25-member task force failed to find a single real clue, police said. On June 28, thieves smashed a window and tore three early oil paintings by the Dutch Impressionist from their wall anchors at the Noordbrabants Museum here. The stolen paintings were valued at 5-10 million guilders (\$2.9-5.8 million). Police went on nationwide television, questioned dozens of museum employees and security guards and assigned a 25-officer task force to the case. But the only evidence found so far, part of a frame, was discovered near the museum by a woman walking her dog, according to police spokesman Jacques Brummans said. The special police task force was first out to three detectives doing mostly paperwork and then disbanded altogether, Brummans said. "We have no trace of the paintings and no sign of the thieves (but) what we have been able to establish is that it wasn't an inside job," Brummans said. The museum's electronic security system, considered among the most advanced in the art-rich Netherlands, worked perfectly except in the room where the paintings were stolen. That prompted speculation that museum staff or employees of its private security company might be involved, but Brummans dismissed the security system failure as a "coincidence."

Pope pays tribute to Columbus

GENOA, Italy (AP) — Sailing into port in a motorboat, Pope John Paul II has paid tribute to Genoa-born navigator and explorer Christopher Columbus. The Pope, making a one-day visit to this city, travelled from the airport to the old port by a coast guard boat as ships in the harbour sounded their sirens in greeting. Pope John Paul met with the workers who are refurbishing the port area for an international fair in 1992 to mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. In a speech to the city, he lauded Columbus as the man who first brought Christianity to America. "It was thanks to his brilliance, his perseverance and his faith that the people of the new world could open their hearts to the good news of the Gospel," the Pontiff said. The Pope's visit coincided with the local church's celebration of the 500th anniversary of the apparition of the Virgin Mary in Genoa. Before returning to Rome, the Pope celebrated a special mass for the occasion and blessed two statues of the Madonna which will be transported to a Genoese mission in Latin America. It was the Pope's second visit to Genoa. The first was in September 1985.

10 killed in fresh S. African factional violence

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Rival Zulus and Xhosas armed with spears and knives clashed in a factional fight at a coal mine, and 10 people were backed to death and 48 were injured, police said Tuesday.

A police spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said fighting erupted late Monday at Hlobane Colliery near Vryheid in northern Natal province. The area has been a battleground between conservative Zulu forces and followers of the African National Congress (ANC).

A group of Zulus went on a rampage in the workers' quarters at the mine, attacking rival Xhosas, the spokesman said. The two groups fought with knives, axes and spears, he said.

Police said they did not know what started the clash.

The fight followed a clash in Johannesburg that left eight people dead. The incidents marked a new outbreak of black factional violence after several weeks of relative calm.

More than 800 people were killed in factional fighting between Zulus of the Inkatha Movement and ANC supporters in black townships around Johannesburg in August and September.

Police also said Tuesday that two men and one woman were killed in separate incidents in other parts of Natal during the past 24 hours. One of the men was killed when two groups armed with spears fought at a bus station in Empangeni.

Police in the black KwaZulu homeland said 43 people had been murdered during the weekend. The report did not say how many deaths were politically motivated.

KwaZulu, a semi-autonomous black homeland, is administered by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, head of the Inkatha Movement.

South African news reports Tuesday said the clash Monday in Johannesburg began when a mini-bus filled with armed men attacked a workers compound near the Kempton Park district.

The attackers, some of whom were wearing masks, opened fire on sleeping workers with automatic weapons, the reports said.

Unidentified men in mini-buses were blamed for starting much of the fighting in the Johannesburg area last month. ANC leaders charged the attackers were linked to the security forces and were trying to fan black violence.

President F. W. de Clerk's government and police commanders have denied the ANC charges.

The government imposed curfews and introduced strict security last month in black townships around Johannesburg hit by factional fighting. Curfews had been lifted in some areas and security relaxed in recent days as the fighting appeared to have ended.

Meanwhile veteran black reporter Stan Hlope was not expecting a rapturous welcome when he decided to take a dip at a previously whites-only swimming pool in the small South African town of Ermelo.

Hlope, who works for the Johannesburg Star, arrived at the pool within hours of Monday's announcement that racial segregation in public amenities had been abolished.

He quickly found himself at the receiving end of a torrent of racist obscenities from a heavily built white pool attendant who initially refused him entry.

Senate approves defence spending bill, backs B-2

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has voted to leave President George Bush's 1991 budget request for the B-2 Stealth bomber intact, but trim Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) funds.

By a vote of 79-16, the Senate, the upper house of Congress, Monday adopted the \$268 billion package for the fiscal year which began Oct. 1.

Negotiators for the Senate and the House of Representatives will meet this week to hammer out a final version of the spending blueprint.

The Senate bill would reduce U.S. troop levels by 100,000, including 50,000 in Europe, would cut about \$1 billion from Bush's request of \$4.7 billion for SDI and would approve the administration's call for purchase of two B-2 bombers in fiscal 1991.

House-approved legislation cuts more deeply, slashing more than \$2 billion from the SDI — or "Star Wars" — budget and stopping production of the B-2 bomber at 15 planes. The administration has requested 75 bombers.

After a fierce fight, the Senate earlier rejected a measure that would have limited total construction to six planes and eliminated about \$2.7 billion that Bush requested to buy the two new bombers.

Negotiators for the House and Senate hope to agree by week's end on the B-2 question and other points of dispute.

In other action Monday, the Senate adopted an amendment requiring Defence Secretary Dick Cheney to report to Congress on what steps other nations are taking to assist the United States in the Gulf.

Cheney has estimated that the cost of "Operation Desert Shield" to thwart Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait could rise to \$15 billion in fiscal 1991. A provision of the bill would require the defence secretary to describe the financial and military help from U.S. allies.

Asian ministers pledge development reforms

BANGKOK (AP) — Senior government officials from 41 countries in Asia and the Pacific pledged Tuesday to consider environmental effects when planning economic development.

The declaration on environmentally sound and sustainable development was adopted at the end of a seven-day, U.N.-organised conference on the region's deteriorating environment.

Eighteen cabinet ministers dealing with the environment attended the meeting, U.N. officials said.

Officials from 41 member states of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which organised the conference, adopted the document.

They pledged to "commit ourselves... wherever possible and in accordance with our priorities and capabilities to incorporate environmental considerations into economic planning with a view to effecting the coordinated development of our economies and environment."

A U.N. statement said the 32-point declaration also affirmed:

- Individuals and private groups have the right to participate in decisions affecting their environment;
- States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources but should ensure that this does not damage the environment of other states;
- The importance of maintaining a proper balance among economic development, population growth, rational use of natural resources and environmental protection.

The statement said the delegates blamed excessive production and consumption, particularly in the industrialised countries, for the environmental deterioration.

World leaders praise awarding of Nobel Prize to Gorbachev

LONDON (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush Monday praised the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Mikhail Gorbachev as particularly appropriate for someone with such "courageous force."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher termed the award "terrific" and "richly deserved," and others said it may help President Gorbachev's efforts to boost the sagging Soviet economy.

World leaders, including many former foes of the Soviet Union, joined in praise of Gorbachev as a worthy recipient of the prize.

"I am of the opinion that if ever an award was justified, this was it," German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said in an interview with the Cologne-based Deutschlandfunk radio station.

"(He) has been a courageous force for peaceful change in the world," said Bush, who noted Gorbachev "brought historically significant change, both political and economic, to the Soviet Union and to Eastern Europe."

Polish trade union leader Lech Walesa, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983, said he wished Gorbachev "further persistence and successes on the road to democracy that you have outlined."

It was the first peace prize awarded to a Soviet or U.S. chief executive since President Woodrow Wilson won in 1919.

From Los Angeles, former President Reagan congratulated his "friend," calling the prize a "well-deserved tribute to his bold and courageous leadership."

"Under President Gorbachev, the Soviet Union is making fundamental and necessary changes in its political and economic systems — changes which will give the Soviet people the freedoms they deserve," he said.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said in a telegram to Gorbachev: "Your personal contribution to the improvement of relations between East and West, to overcoming the division of our continent, to breakthroughs in disarmament and arms controls and solutions of regional conflicts is worthy of highly deserved praise."

In Spain, Foreign Minister Fernandez Ordonez called the award an "act of justice."

Italy's Premier Giulio Andreotti said the announcement "filled me with joy."

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar told reporters Gorbachev had not only contributed "in a remarkable manner" to détente, but to enhancing the role of the U.N. "as a peacemaking and peacekeeping centre."

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek said the prize may boost Gorbachev's standing in efforts for domestic economic reform.

London School of Economics Soviet expert Margot Light said:

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"It won't help him out of his economic predicament, but it may make his political position slightly more stable."

Israel's Labour Party leader Shimon Peres told parliament that he congratulated Gorbachev for allowing the emigration of Soviet Jews.

Citing the 59-year-old Gorbachev's contribution to the cause of freedom, Portuguese President Mario Soares said, "(It is) a choice that I applaud with both hands, enthusiastically and without reserve."

Not all reaction was positive, however.

Latvian Historian Jan Saltsmanis, whose homeland is among the Baltic Republics fighting for independence from the Soviet Union, said the West was too impressed with Gorbachev.

"I reacted with dismay," he said to a radio station in Sweden, where he has lived since 1945. "Gorbachev has opened up borders, he deserves a certain merit for the development. But you should not overestimate his significance in the context."

President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania, another republic seeking independence from the Soviet Union, said the Nobel Committee "had grounds" to award the peace prize to Gorbachev.

The Soviet leader's "contribution to efforts to avoid destructive war is indisputable," Landsbergis told the Lithuanian News Service

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ELTA Monday. His remarks were distributed by TASS, the official Soviet News Agency.

"Although Lithuania experienced the Soviet Union's ill-meaning and even hostile policy towards itself, there are things that are much more important than those that we can see from our land," Landsbergis was quoted as saying.

In Brussels NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner hailed Gorbachev calling his contribution to the democratic revolutions in Eastern Europe "essential."

"He (Woerner) praised the essential contribution of President Gorbachev to the peaceful changes in Central and Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union," a NATO spokesman said.

The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader who won the award last year, told Gorbachev Tuesday he richly deserved the Nobel Peace Prize.

"It has immensely admired your courageous leadership and the tremendous contribution that you have made for freedom, democracy and peace," the Dalai Lama said in a message released by his office in New Delhi.

"I take great pleasure in conveying to you my congratulations on your being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for the year 1990," he added.

"You richly deserve the honour the Nobel Committee has bestowed on you,"

Meanwhile Soviet citizens rushing from store to store Monday seeking food, clothes and other essentials showed both pride and anger over Gorbachev's selection as winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

"For world peace and disarmament, he has done an awful lot. But for his own people, he hasn't done much," said Bela, 53, a subway rider who declined to give her last name.

"Around the world, he's popular, of course. But here, he's not," she added, gesturing at grim-faced passengers carrying half-full shopping bags of plastic or string mesh.

Most of the 15 Soviets interviewed at random in Moscow streets, markets, subways and apartment buildings praised Gorbachev for his role in raising the iron curtain and ending the cold war.

But they expressed anger over his domestic policies, which they blamed for ethnic violence, high inflation and shortages of staples ranging from gasoline to instant coffee.

"I don't know much about politics, but what I see in the stores, I hold the government responsible for," said Lyova Likacheva, a 35-year-old factory worker.

"And what I see in the stores is nothing — they're empty," Gorbachev told television reporters the Nobel Prize would help "on an emotional and intellectual level" to raise support for his economic reforms.

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But many of the Soviets interviewed said they believed he had received the award solely for his foreign policy.

The news spread quickly and seemed to take most people by surprise. There had been virtually no speculation in the Soviet press about Gorbachev's possible receipt of the award.

Exiled Russian poet Irina Ratnshinskaya Monday predicted the downfall of Gorbachev and accused the West of artificially propping him up.

"The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Gorbachev is a standard Western gesture designed to shore up the authority of the leader of a crumbling empire," the Polish News Agency PAP quoted her as telling a meeting at Warsaw University.

"Gorbachev will end his days as a political refugee in California and we who have been deprived of Soviet citizenship will return to our free homeland," she said.

Ratnshinskaya, who spent four years in a Soviet prison camp for dissident activities, now lives in London. She was stripped of her citizenship after travelling to the West for medical treatment.

She said Gorbachev, who was awarded the prize for helping to end the cold war, had restored the citizenship of "only a very few dissidents."

"There are still political prisoners in Soviet detention camps... but that will change, and then I will return," she said.